

Workshop Program

“The European Union in Central Asia:

An Uninvited Guest in China’s and Russia’s Backyard?”

Location: Van Swinderen Huys, Groningen (Oude Boteringestraat 19, 9712GC, Groningen)

Please note: all times are local (CET+1)

Link for online participation:

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/7a873dfaefbf462ebaa359e147436cf0>

DAY 1 (Thursday 19 May 2022)	
Time	Activity
10:00 – 10:30	Arrival with coffee
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome address – Marek Neuman & Agha Bayramov <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Case for Looking into EU-Central Asian Relations through a Sectoral Approach (provisional title; introduction to edited volume / special issue)</i> Marek Neuman (University of Groningen, the Netherlands) Agha Bayramov (University of Groningen, the Netherlands)
11:00 – 12:30	Paper panel #1 (discussant and chair: Senka Neuman Stanivukovic) The European Union in Central Asia: Theories, Concepts and Strategies I <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The European Union as a Partner in Region-Building in Central Asia</i> Ikbojon Qoraboyev (M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University, Kazakhstan)<i>The EU and Central Asia: A Case of Genuine Partnership?</i> Dilafroz Gulomova (University of York, United Kingdom) (online contribution)<i>EU-Central Asia: A New Strategy in a Reshaped Geopolitical Landscape</i> Fabio Indeo (Italian Observatory for Central Asia and Caspian, Italy)

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break (on site)
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Paper panel #2 (discussant and chair: Mustafa Sezal)</p> <p>The European Union in Central Asia: Theories, Concepts and Strategies II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The “Good Life” as an Alternative to Neo-Liberal Governance: Proposing a post-Development Approach to EU Resilience Governance in Central Asia</i> Fabienne Bossuyt (Ghent University, Belgium) Nazima Davletova (UWED, Uzbekistan) (online contribution) ● <i>EU Engagement with Central Asia: Partnering for Resilience?</i> Elena Korosteleva (University of Warwick, United Kingdom) Irina Petrova (University of Kent, United Kingdom) (online contribution) ● <i>Various Understandings of Rule of Law: Conceptualization of Actor Centric Perspective</i> Nargiza Kilichova (University of Regensburg, Germany) (online contribution)
15:00 –15:30	Coffee/tea break (on site)
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Paper panel #3 (discussant and chair: Marek Neuman)</p> <p>The European Union in Central Asia: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The EU as a Good Governance Promoter in Central Asia: Some Lessons Learned from e-Justice Implementation in Kyrgyzstan</i> Aliia Maralbaeva (Ala-Too International University, Kyrgyzstan) (online contribution) ● <i>The EU and Civil Society in Central Asia: Many Miles to Go</i> Gülşen Şeker Aydın (Ataturk University, Turkey) (online contribution) ● <i>Quality of Governance in Kyrgyzstan and the Role of EU Development Aid in Promoting Good Governance</i> Taalaigul Usonova (International Ala-Too University, Kyrgyzstan) Ailuna Shamurzaeva (Wroclaw niversity)

18:00	<i>Workshop dinner (Dinnercafe De Markies; Koninginnelaan 45, 9717BN, Groningen)</i>
DAY 2 (Friday 20 May 2022)	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Paper panel #4 (discussant and chair: Jaap de Wilde)</p> <p>The European Union in Central Asia: Security and Conflict Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>European Union and Conflict Resolution in Central Asia in the 21st Century</i> Alexandru Balas (State University of New York – Cortland, USA) ● <i>Tough Love: The EU and Border Conflict in Central Asia</i> Viktoria Akchurina (OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan) Vincent Della Sala (University of Trento, Italy) (online contribution) ● <i>Great Power Conflict Management vs. EU Foreign Policy Assistance: The Prospect of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Territorial Conflict Settlement</i> Harutyun Voskanyan (Estonian School of Diplomacy, Estonia) (online contribution) ● <i>Conceptualizing EU-Central Asia Relations Outside the Chines BRI Narrative: Theoretical and Geopolitical Approach as a World System</i> Achim Alan de Merlo (The Graduate Institute IHEID, Switzerland) (online contribution)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break (on site)</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Paper panel #5 (discussant and chair: Ikboljon Qoraboyev)</p> <p>The European Union in Central Asia: China's Backyard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Central Asia, a Bridge or Brigade? EU Presence in China's Backyard</i> Pengfei Hou (University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom) (online contribution) ● <i>China's Heritage Diplomacy in Central Asia: Prospects for Cooperation with the European Union</i> Giulia Sciorati (University of Trento, Italy) (online contribution)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Analyzing the Strategies of China and the EU towards Central Asia: From Tangible Gains to Sustainable Development</i> Vakur Sumer (Khoqa Akhmet Yassawi International Turkish-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan) Kanat Makhanov (Khoqa Akhmet Yassawi International Turkish-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan) (online contribution) ● <i>Central Asia and Trans-Regional Project “Western China – Western Europe” in Focus of the EU Strategy for Central Asia</i> Mara Gubaidullina (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan) Saniya Nurdavletova (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break (on site)</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Paper panel #6 (discussant and chair: Agha Bayramov)</p> <p>The European Union in Central Asia: Sector-specific issues and policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>EU’s Green Power in Central Asia: the Case of the Aral Sea and the Environmental Political Culture in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan</i> Ana-Maria Anghelescu (National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Romania) Ioan-David Onel (National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Romania) (online contribution) ● <i>Shaping the Central Asian Energy Market: Regulatory Convergence or Competition?</i> Anatole Boute (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong) (online contribution) ● <i>What is the Footprint of Foreign Donors, Universities and other Organizations in the Modernization of Higher Education of Uzbekistan?</i> Alex Krouglov (University College London, United Kingdom) ● <i>EU-Kyrgyz Relations: Squaring the Triangle</i> Sureyya Yigit (Regional Development Studies Institute, USA) (online contribution)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Symposium closing and further planning</i>
16:00	<i>Departure</i>