

**University of Washington**  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program (REECAS),  
Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

## ***CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR***

Founded in 1987 as Central Asian Studies Group

# **Program for Autumn Quarter 2009**

**Chair: Anders Conway, REECAS**  
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**Program Organizer: Ilse D. Cirtautas**  
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*Meetings are free for faculty, students, and the public*

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**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN DENNY HALL 123 AT 12:30 P.M.**

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| October 16<br>Friday   | <p><b>Welcoming to the Autumn Quarter Program!</b><br/><b>Announcements, Exchange of Information</b><br/><b>Sharing of Experiences with Recent Travelers from and to Central Asia.</b><br/><b>Vegetarian Pizza Lunch served.</b><br/><i>Denny 123, 12:30-2:00 p.m.</i></p>   |
| October 22<br>Thursday | <p><b>”Report on the 10th Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), Toronto, Canada, October 8-11, 2009”</b><br/>David Merrell, School of Law, and Simon Wickham-Smith<br/>Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS)<br/><i>Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>[The Central Eurasian Studies Society was officially established in 2000, following the example of the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) founded in 1985. Within a short time the CESS developed into a major organization for scholars of Central Asia/Eurasia. Like the conferences of its European counterpart, the CESS conferences bring together scholars from all over the world, including scholars from Central Asia.]</p> |
| October 23<br>Friday   | <p><b>“Kyrgyzstan’s South: Impressions of Osh”</b><br/>Natalya Wobst, M. A. Candidate, REECAS<br/><i>Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>[Natalya Wobst spent last summer in Osh, participating in an Uzbek language program organized by ACCELS. Part of her discussion will be on the Uzbeks in Osh, where they are making up a near majority: dominating businesses and having a visible presence in local schools.]</p>  |

October 29  
Thursday

**“Kyrgyzstan’s Bazaars: A New Picture of Economic, Cultural and Political Vitality in Central Asia”**

Anders Conway, M.A. Candidate, REECAS  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

[As a place of public exchange of goods, ideas, and culture, the bazaar offers a unique window onto the tumultuous currents of change that have gripped Kyrgyzstan since independence. Because the economic transactions at the bazaar are often not merely transactions, but built on long-term social relationships, the bazaar presents a tapestry of cultural symbolism and political salience. The presentation will touch on topics such as the “resurgence” of Islamic zeal in the region as well as the role of the bazaar in aligning political networks and providing a motivation and stage for unrest in some instances.]

October 30  
Friday

**“The Uzbek Short Story: A Mirror of Uzbek Life”**

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, UW  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

[This presentation is a continuation of a previous discussion on the history of the development of the Uzbek short story, presented in February 2009. In the following the plot and structure of the Uzbek short story will be discussed. The writers seem to have only the Uzbek reader in mind. The locality of the story is mostly limited to a place in Uzbekistan and the characters are Uzbeks. Other nationalities rarely appear. We will look at possible reasons for such limitations, but also give examples of the accurate descriptions of Uzbek life, typical for the Uzbek short story.]

November 5  
Thursday

**The Afghanistan Legal Education Project of the School of Law, University of Washington”**

David Merell, School of Law, University of Washington  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

[Through a U.S. State Department grant, the University of Washington, School of Law has been training Afghan legal scholars in Seattle since 2004. The goals of this project and some of its successes and failures will be discussed. After this introduction, the floor will be opened to a panel of legal scholars from Afghanistan who are in Seattle as participants in the project. In addition to answering questions, these Afghan scholars will discuss their experience with legal education here in the US and back in Afghanistan.]

November 6  
Friday

**A Hidden Buddha: The Expression of Spirituality in Mongolian Literature During the Soviet Era”**

Simon Wickham-Smith. M.A. Candidate, REECAS  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

[For the nomadic society of Mongolia, the purges of Buddhist monastics and the destruction of the monasteries during the 1930’s spelt the beginning of five decades of spiritual and religious repression. This paper will discuss the way in which writers sought to express their spirituality during the communist period, and how they, to some extent, succeeded in sidestepping the censors.]

- November 12  
Thursday
- “The Impact of the Mongol Empire on the Evolution of Russo Asian Autocracy”**  
Dr. Robert Bedeski, Professor Emeritus,  
University of Victoria, now living in Redmond, WA.  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- [Professor Bedeski, a scholar of East Asia has been writing and doing research on Mongolia for over a decade. His presentation is based on a book he is presently writing on “The Asian State: Its Mongol Legacy and Transformation.” He argues that the Mongol invasion and destruction of the Kievan polycentrism in the 13th century may have been decisive in Russian unification and establishing the pattern of tsarist autocracy.]
- November 13  
Friday
- No Program**
- November 19  
Thursday
- Recent Publications on/in Central Asia: “Jeff Sahadeo and Russel G. Zanca, eds. *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007.”** Discussed by Professor Ilse Cirtautas and students from Central Asia: Saodat Khakimova (Uzbekistan) and Shyngys Nurlanov (Kazakhstan)  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- November 20  
Friday
- Recent Publication on/in Kazakhstan: “Mukhamet Shayakhmetov. *The Silent Steppe. The Memoir of a Kazakh Nomad Under Stalin. Translated From Russian by Jan Butler. New York: The Rookery Press, 2006.*”** Discussed in conjunction with other accounts of the same period by Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- December 3  
Thursday
- Recent Publications on/in Kyrgyzstan:”**  
***The Semetey of Kenje Kara. A Kirghiz Epic Performance on Phonograph, edited by Daniel Prior. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2006.*”**  
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- December 4  
Friday
- Recent Publications on/in Uzbekistan: Naim Karimov, ed. *Tarixning Hasratli Sahifalari” (Tragic Pages of (our) History), Tashkent: Sharq, 2006.*”**  
The contributors to this publication are presenting an overview of Russian/Soviet colonialism and its suppression of reform and freedom movements, its policies of collectivization, deportations, and executions. The book will be reviewed in the context of previous Uzbek publications dealing with the same or similar topics.  
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
*Denny 123, 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

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