Friday, April 9th - **Welcome to the Spring Quarter Program!**  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm*  
Announcements, Exchange of Information and Ideas, Sharing of Topics of Current Research Projects, and Listening to the Experiences of Recent Travelers from and to Central Asia. Vegetarian pizza lunch served.

Thursday, April 15th - “**Changing Gender Roles and Relations in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Girls, Women and Grandmothers**”  
Dr. Gulshat Maatkerimova, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*  
Dr. Gulshat Maatkerimova is presently a visiting scholar at California State University in Long Beach supported by the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) of the U.S. Department of State. Her presentation is based on her observations of changes in Kyrgyz society after independence in 1991. Life became extremely harsh, but the Kyrgyz women mastered the difficulties much better than the Kyrgyz men. In many ways this reflects the historical role of women in Kyrgyz society. Women leaders like Kurmanjan Datka, Urkuya Salieva will be discussed together with the image of women in the epic *Manas*.

Saturday, April 17th - “**The 16th Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) Conference: Time, and Transition, Reflecting on the Past Twenty Years in Russia, East Europe and Central Asia**”  
Western Washington University, Bellingham  
For more information please contact Allison Dvaladze at 206-543-4852.
Thursday, April 22nd - “Central Asian Turkic Heroic Epic Songs and Soviet Policies of Repression”
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
After having subjected all printed editions of the Central Asian heroic epic songs to a severe censorship, Moscow started in 1950 a campaign against them with the goal of completely abolishing them. Among the reasons stated was that the Turkic heroic epic songs displayed an intolerable nationalism and an idealization of the heroes. The presentation will pay special attention to the Kyrgyz epic Manas, the Uzbek Alpamish and the Kazakh epic Edige and to those who defended them against the attacks which lasted until Stalin’s death in 1953.

Friday, April 23rd - “Building the Improbable: the Creation of the I.V. Savitsky Karakalpak State Museum in Nukus, Uzbekistan”
Valerie Grabski, M.A. Student in the Department of Museology, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
The seemingly improbable I.V. Savitsky Karakalpak State Museum of Art exists because of a unique combination of personalities, place, and time during Soviet rule that led to Nukus being home to a world renowned collection of once forbidden Russian avant-garde art.

Thursday, April 29th – “The Place of Music in Afghan Society”
Professor Hiromi Sakata, University of California, Los Angeles
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
Professor Sakata received her M.A and Ph.D. degrees from the UW. Starting with her M.A. thesis ("Music of the Hazarajat", UW, 1968) Professor Sakata has devoted her life to the study of the musical traditions in all different ethnic regions of Afghanistan. About the importance of music in Afghanistan, she has this to say: “If anyone ever thought that music was a mere pastime, peripheral to the needs of society, the past events under Taliban rule should dispel this notion from his/her mind forever. The traditional place of music in Afghan society was central to the power of the word in Islam, inextricably tied to Afghan culture and identity, and an important player in the politics of state and community, past and present.”

Friday, April 30th - “Azerbaijan Today”
Professor Alison Mandaville, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm
This presentation is a photographic introduction to the region of modern-day Azerbaijan. Starting in the large metropolitan area of Baku, Professor Mandaville will discuss images of the region, currently in a dramatic political, cultural and economic transition. The challenges and opportunities this region has faced since gaining independence in 1991 will also be discussed.
Saturday, May 8th - “22nd Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central/Inner Asian Studies: Environmental Issues in Central/Inner Asia”
_Denny Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m._
For further information, please contact Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Email: icirt@uw.edu

Rubin Shimonov, Jackson School of International Studies; Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
Bukharian Jewry, an ethno-religious community with a millennia-old history in Central Asia, has received minimal attention in academia. The omission of the Bukharian Jewish experience does not only leave a gap within Jewish cultural studies, but also within Near Eastern and Central Asian studies in general. This study examines forms of communal identity that emerged among Bukharian Jews by looking at their historical presence in Central Asia. It investigates the ways that various environments, in which Bukharian Jews always formed minority enclaves, have historically affected their sense of group identity.

Friday, May 14th - No Program

Thursday, May 20th – “Recent Publications on/in Central Asia: Navro’z, Naurız, Nooruz (Beginning of spring = New Year) in the Works of Central Asian Turkic Writers and Scholars (To’ra Mirzaev, Matyoqub Qo’shjonov and Others)”
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
_Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm_

Friday, May 21st – “Recent Publications on/in Kazakhstan: Publications by and on Muxtار Auezov (1897-1961), distinguished Kazakh Writer and Scholar of Kazakh Oral Literature, especially the epic traditions of the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz”
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
_Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm_

Thursday, May 27th - Recent Publication on/in Kyrgyzstan: (to be announced)

Friday, May 28th – “Recent Publications on/in Uzbekistan: Selected Publications on Uzbek Oral Literature by the Alisher Nava’iy Institute of Language and Literature, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan”
Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
_Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm_