UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program (REECAS), Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

CENTRAL – INNER ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

Founded in 1987 as the Central Asian Studies Group

Program for Spring Quarter 2013

Program Organizer and Chair: Ilse D. Cirtautas,
Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
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All meetings are free to students, faculty and the public

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April 12
Welcome to the Spring Quarter 2013!
Friday
Announcements, exchange of information and ideas
on research projects and listening to the experiences
of recent travelers from and to Central Asia.

Vegetarian Pizza will be served
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm.
April 18
Thursday

"The Description of Women in the Works of Chingiz Aitmatov:
Poetic Language Issues in Modern Kyrgyz"
Feruza Shermatova, Ph.D., Fulbright Scholar from Osh University in
Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40pm

[The presentation will discuss how the well-known Kyrgyz writer
Chingiz Aitmatov portrays the nature and beauty of the Kyrgyz women
as a constituent part of ethnic color. His poetic language is full of
metaphors, epithets, idioms and expressive syntactical constructions
displaying the linguistic richness of the Kyrgyz language. As an example
of Chingiz Aitmatov’s style his novel Delbirim (To have and to lose) will
be analyzed. The novel takes place in Soviet Kyrgyzstan and recounts
how a young driver finds his true love Asel but then loses her. The novel
was translated into English by Olga Shartse and published in 1989
in Moscow.]

April 19
Friday

"Modern Kyrgyz and its Heritage"
Feruza Shermatova, Ph.D., Fulbright Scholar from Osh University, in
Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40pm

[This presentation will deal with the historical background and current
development of Kyrgyz as a Turkic language. Attention will be given to
the vocabulary of the Kyrgyz language. Words borrowed from Mongolian,
Persian, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and other languages have been assimilated
according to the linguistic law of vowel harmony in Kyrgyz. The current
growth of Kyrgyz is connected with the renaissance of the Kyrgyz ethnic
identity after independence in 1991. The use of Kyrgyz has increased
significantly in all spheres of life.]

April 25
Thursday

"Kyrgyz Movie: “The White Ship”, filmed after Chingiz Aitmatov’s novella
of the same title."
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm

April 27
Saturday

REECAS Conference
For more information please contact the Ellison Center for Russian, East
European and Central Asian Studies, Tel.: 206-543-4852
May 2
Thursday

“Toward a Sacred Topography of Central Asia: Shrines, Pilgrimage, and Gender in Modern Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan”
Jennifer Webster, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40 pm.

[The topic will be discussed as part of the presenter's dissertation about changing perceptions of pilgrimage in Tajikistan and southern Kyrgyzstan from the 1960's to the present day. The presentation will trace the different ways that people have understood the sacred sites of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan through legends, changing political views, connections with sacred sites in other parts of Central Asia, and negotiations with modernity.]

May 3
Friday

“Post-Soviet Kazakhstan and the Koryo Saram (Koreans): Shared Struggle with the Preservation of Language, Identity and Culture”
Esther Lee, Undergraduate Student, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization, UW
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40 pm

[Our presenter is Korean and she will continue her research on the Koreans in Kazakhstan. They were deported by Stalin to Kazakhstan from eastern Siberia where they had settled since 1863 in order to escape difficult times in their own country. In Kazakhstan they had to suffer the same fate as all non-Russians, namely the enforced loss of their identity. They became russified and sovieticized, speaking only Russian. This also happened to the Kazakhs. However, since independence (1991) the young generation of the Kazakhs and the Koreans, led by their elders, have been returning to their own roots and learning their native languages. In addition, as Esther Lee concludes, Koreans as well as other ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan, should also learn the state language, Kazakh, as a tribute to the country they are part of.]

May 9
Thursday

“Kazakh Movie (title to be announced)”
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40pm.
May 10
Friday

Lecture on Kazakhstan by Dr. R. Charles Weller,
Washington State University, Pullman, WA
R. Charles Weller is one of the few scholars who has
a thorough knowledge of Kazakhstan and the Kazakhs.
He lived and studied there, speaks Kazakh and even received his
doctoral degree from the Al-Farabi University in Almaty.

Topic and location to be announced

Book Reviews

May 16
Thursday

“Recent Publications on/in Central Asia: Marfua Tokhtakhodjaeva
and Elmira Turgumbekova. The Daughters of Amazons. Voices from
Central Asia”. Lahore, Pakistan: Shirkat Gah Women’s Resource
Center, 1996. " (240 pages)
Review by Prof. Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40 pm

[As the authors of the above study stated in the introduction (p.12), their
purpose was “to give voice to the female intelligentsia of the Central Asian
states.” The best way to accomplish this task was to engage a number of
selected women, almost all with a university education, in a kind of survey
interview. The authors spoke with 67 women in Uzbekistan, 59 in Kazakhstan,
49 in Kyrgyzstan, 24 in Turkmenistan and 18 in Tajikistan. After a discussion
on “The Female Intelligentsia of Central Asia: Old and New Problems (Chapter
I, pp.16-31), the statements of the interviewed women are presented
according to the questions they had been given. For example, a major set of
questions centers on the family: “What does family mean to you? Have you ever
witnessed discrimination against women in the family?” (p. 34). Other sets of
questions deal, e.g., with “Looking Back into the Past” (p.73), “Women Lives:
Determined by Religion, Culture or neither?” (p.99) and “Education: Bane or
Boon?” (p.125). All in all, of greatest value are the individual and very
personal answers of the women who indeed represent the female elite of
Central Asia.]
May 17  
Friday


[Both, the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, and Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbaev have regularly published books to inform their people about the directions of their plans and actions. Nazarbayev’s book is a valuable record of the first five years of Kazakhstan’s independence. It also contains his speeches and addresses on various occasions.]

May 25  
Saturday

“25th Annual Nicholas Poppe Symposium on Central/Inner Asian Studies”
Denny Hall 215 A
Please contact Prof. Ilse Cirtautas for more information: icirt@uw.edu

May 30  
Thursday

Review by Prof. Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civiliztion Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40 pm.

[The above novel is the last work of Chingiz Aitmatov (1928-2008). He transmits here a strong message to the Kyrgyz to protect their sacred mountains and the animals living there, notably the snow leopard. Since independence (1991) ruthless Kyrgyz have made it a lucrative business to organize hunting parties for wealthy Arabs to hunt in the mountains the snow leopards which as a result are now almost extinct. The author also speaks out against destructive western influences in Kyrgyzstan.]

May 31  
Friday

Review by Prof. Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civiliztion Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30/1:40 pm.

[The book contains short stories of seventy Uzbek writers. Each writer is represented by one story. Only to the writers Abdulla Qodiriy (1894-1938),]
known for the first Uzbek novel *O’tgan kunlar* (The Days that Passed), and Uchqun Nazarov (1934 -) have been given space for two and more stories. It seems that the compilers’ goal is to show the impressive number of Uzbek short story writers who had their work published during the 20th century. Each writer, among them two female writers, is introduced with a picture and a brief biography. The task of selecting the most representative work for each of the writers must not have been easy. Unfortunately, the introduction, written by B. Karimov, does not inform us about the guidelines or criteria for the selection. Nonetheless, the statement that the Uzbek short story is a mirror of Uzbek life is very true. Indeed, the Uzbek short story is a most valuable source to learn about Uzbek customs, norms and values.]