

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 Winter Quarter 2010

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*

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

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January 15  
Friday

#### **Welcoming to the Winter Quarter Program!**

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.  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-2:00 pm*

January 21  
Thursday

#### **“Climate Change and the Water Resources in Central Asia”**

Brett Walton. M.A., Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS); News  
Correspondent for *Circle of Blue*, an Environmental News Organization, reporting on  
Global Water Issues, Seattle, WA.  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[Most of the water in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya comes from glaciers which are now  
melting faster than they are growing. A short term increase in supplies will lead to long  
term disaster if not managed well. Central Asian leaders are taking steps to address the  
problem, but more needs to be done.]

January 22  
Friday

#### **“Construction and De-Construction of ‘Nations’ in Central Asia”**

Dr. Ochil Zohidov, Fulbright Scholar from Tajikistan  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[The presentation will focus on the political history of Central Asia by examining different  
theoretical perspectives on the nation state. Many western political scientists, as, e.g.  
Olivier Roy in his book *The New Central Asia. The Creation of a Nation*. New York: New  
York University Press, 2000, maintain that neither the concept of a nation state nor a sense  
of nationality existed before independence in Central Asia. Roy did not pay attention to  
the fact that the Tajiks were fighting against the Russian Bolsheviks from 1917 until 1929  
for a Tajik nation state.]

January 28  
Thursday

**“On Empire’s Edge: the Career of Mohan Lal as a Servant to the British Empire in Kashmir and Afghanistan”**

Stefan Kamola, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, UW  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[Mohan Lal was a resident of Delhi, the son of a family of Kashmiri Pandits who had long worked for the Mughal court. Born in the year of Napoleon’s invasion of Russia, he died the year that Queen Victoria became Empress of India. For a few short years in the 1830’s and 1840’s, he was employed by the British as they tried to apply their imperial projects to the Panjab and Afghanistan. This culminated in the disastrous first Afghan War and the resulting hostage situation, which Lal managed to resolve almost single-handed. His career as a Munshi and intelligence officer, as well as his struggle for recognition within the increasingly bureaucratic and segregated British administration mark Mohan Lal’s life as a metaphor for the entire process of imperial expansion in India. Lal’s life and work show how men such as Lal, trained by the British as interpreters and intermediaries, became alienated both from the societies of their birth and from their British employers.]

January 29  
Thursday

**“The Uzbeks of Afghanistan in Recent Western Scholarship”**

Professor Ilse D. Cirtautas, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[This presentation looks at the history of the settlement of Uzbek tribes in northern Afghanistan which even today is called Afghan Turkistan. Much of the scholarship on the Afghan Uzbeks in the 1950’s and 1970’s consisted of linguistic studies (Gunnar Jarring), later the interest shifted to anthropological/folklore studies (Austria, Germany). It is unfortunate that in current news media discussions on Afghanistan the Uzbeks and other Turkic groups (Turkmen, Kazakhs) with a long history in the region are rarely mentioned.]

February 4  
Thursday

**“Afghanistan Forum I: The Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Lingual Population of Afghanistan”**

*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[Wahidullah Amiry from Nangarhar, Hussein Ali Atefi from Central Afghanistan, M. Bashir Mobasher from Kabul, and M. Ayub Yusufzai from Balkh are legal scholars from Afghanistan who are taking law courses at the University of Washington School of Law through the Afghan Legal Educator’s Project. As they are each from different parts of Afghanistan, they will each review the various ethnicities in their regions and the challenges and opportunities such diversity brings to the process of law in Afghanistan.]

February 5  
Friday

**“Turkmenistan’s Educational System and its Challenges”**

Nartach Jepbarova, Turkmenistan, M.A. Candidate, College of Education, UW

[Turkmenistan faces many challenges in reforming its educational system. Since independence in 1991 the quality of education has suffered. Soviet-era teaching methods and outdated textbooks are still being used. The obligatory school years have been reduced from eleven to nine years. Salaries for teachers are low, despite heavy teaching loads. From September 1 until November 1 schools are closed so that students can help with the cotton harvest. One of the positive factors is that learning English is being encouraged, because Turkmenistan has two state languages: Turkmen and English.]

February 11  
Thursday

**“Afghanistan Forum II: The Role of Elders in Afghan Society”**

*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[The participants of this Forum will be again legal scholars from Afghanistan (see above). The topic has been chosen in response to recent discussions in the American media showing a complete misunderstanding of the important role of the elders in Afghan society. The participants will discuss their own upbringing in the families, where they learned the rules of showing respect to the elders. The discussion will then proceed to the elders’ role in society, where they are revered for their wisdom and counsel.]

February 12  
Friday

**“Askar Akaev versus Kurmanbek Bakiev: Are the Kyrgyz Better Off?”**

Dr. Vitaly Nishanov, Lecturer, School of Business, UW

*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[After the Tulip Revolution in March 2005 the new president of Kyrgyzstan, K. Bakiev, promised that he was not going to repeat the mistakes the ousted president A. Akaev had made. So far K. Bakiev has not only made numerous new mistakes, but he was also unable to avoid some of Akaev’s errors.]

February 18  
Thursday

**“Central Asian Turkic Historical Documents and their Application to Law Reforms in Central Asia”**

David Merrell, J.D., L.L.M, Asian & Comparative Law Ph.D. Program,  
University of Washington School of Law

*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

[After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Western laws and norms were transplanted into Central Asia. As Western law and norms did not match Central Asian experiences and were manipulated for power, they did not promote the rule of law. Rather than impose western norms, Central Asian norms should be used to create the rule of law in Central Asia. Therefore, three historical Turkic texts (*the Kul Tegin Inscription*, the *Kutadgu Bilig*, and the *Baburname*) will be reviewed to determine whether they could be used to inspire the rule of law in Central Asia.]

February 19  
Friday

**No program**

February 25  
Thursday

**“Recent Publications on/in Central Asia: “Islamic Central Asia. An Anthology of Historical Sources. Scott Levi and Ron Sela, eds. Bloomington. IND.: Indiana University Press, 2009”**

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization

*Denny Hall, 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

February 26  
Friday

**Recent Publication on/in Kazakhstan: “The Kazakh Jadids (Reformers, Enlighteners) republished: Mirjaqip Dulatov. *Oyan Qazaq!* (Wake up, Kazakh!) Almaty: ‘Atamura’, 2003”**

The discussion will also include the republished works of other Kazazak Jadids, all of them, like Mirjaqip Dulatov, had been executed in 1937/1938 under Stalin’s order.

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization

*Denny Hall, 123, 12:30-1:30pm*

March 4  
Thursday

**Recent Publications on/in Kyrgyzstan: “Chingiz Aitmatov’s Comments on Soviet Rule and its Effects on Central Asians in his Novel ‘A Day Lasts Longer than a Century’ and other works, including his autobiography, published shortly before his death in 2008.”**

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

March 5  
Friday

**Recent Publications on/in Uzbekistan: “The Soviet Past as remembered by Uzbek Writers and Scholars: Said Ahmad, Shukrullo, Hamid Ziyoev and others.”**

Professor Ilse Cirtautas, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization  
*Denny Hall 123, 12:30-1:30 pm*

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