Central Eurasian Studies Society

Twelfth Annual Conference

September 15-18, 2011
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
Welcome Letter

Dear Colleagues and Guests,

Welcome to the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, and welcome to Ohio State!

This year’s program is an especially rich one, with fifty panels and a number of special highlights. Professor Peter Perdue of Yale University joins us this year to deliver the Plenary Address, “When Central Eurasia was not Central: Strange and Familiar Parallels, 1350–1750.” We also welcome Monica Whitlock, author, filmmaker and former BBC Central Asia correspondent, who will present and discuss her new documentary, “Through the Looking Glass: The Andijan Massacre.” Professor Peter Golden will join us to participate in a roundtable discussion of his recent book, Central Asia in World History (Oxford, 2011) for this year’s Presidential Panel.

This year’s conference also hosts a special seven-panel conference-within-a-conference, “Eurasian Environments: Nature and Ecology in Eurasian History,” organized by Ohio State History Professor Nicholas Breyfogle. We welcome the more than twenty colleagues who join us in this special event, which is open to all conference participants.

As is always the case, this year’s conference is the product of a substantial amount of sustained work by many people and the support of a number of organizations. Our program would not have been possible without the funds provided by the following Ohio State units: The Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The College of Arts and Sciences, The Middle East Studies Center, The Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The East Asian Studies Center, the Department of History, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

The Conference Committee would like to single out a few individuals in particular for the effort in making this event happen. In addition all of the CESS members who have volunteered their time and efforts, special thanks go to Maureen Pritchard, who has worked tirelessly as this year’s conference director, Lance Erickson and Jordan Peters, of the Slavic Center. We thank Alam Payind and Melinda Mcclimans of the Middle East Center, Patricia Sieber of the East Asia Center, Richard Hermann of the Mershon Center, Dan Prior and Steve Hess of the CESS Secretariat at Miami University of Ohio, and Aimee Dobbs of the soon-to-be established CESS Secretariat at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Next year’s conference will be hosted by our colleagues at Indiana University, Bloomington.

We hope you find some time to explore our campus, and that you enjoy your visit to Columbus.

Victoria Clement, Naval Postgraduate School
Scott Levi, The Ohio State University
Morgan Liu, The Ohio State University
# TABLE of CONTENTS

Welcome Letter

Featured Bios............................................................................................................. 4

Conference Schedule............................................................................................... 5

Map of The Ohio State University Campus........................................................... 6

General Information................................................................................................. 7-8

Schedule of Panels.................................................................................................. 10-11

List of Panels........................................................................................................... 14-28

Panel Grids............................................................................................................... 12-13

Index of Panelists

Advertisers/ Exhibitors
  SOAS: Call for papers
  American Councils
  Berghahn Books (ad only)
  Information Age Publishing (ad only)
  M.E. Sharp (ad only)
  Photography: Philip Hubert
  Routledge
  Scholar's Choice
  SRAS
  University of Pittsburgh Press
  Women's Central Eurasia Network

About CESS.............................................................................................................. 43
Peter Perdue: Plenary Address

Peter C. Perdue Professor of History at Yale University. He has a Ph.D. from Harvard University in the field of History and East Asian Languages. He is the author of *Exhausting the Earth: State and Peasant in Hunan 1500-1850 A.D.* (Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1987) and *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* (Harvard University Press, 2005). He has also written on grain markets in China, agricultural development, and environmental history. His research interests lie in modern Chinese and Japanese social and economic history, history of frontiers, and world history. He is a recipient of the 1988 Edgerton Award and the James A. Levitan Prize at MIT. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2007.

Peter Golden: Presidential Panel

Peter Golden is Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University where he was a professor of History and Director of the Program in Middle Eastern Studies. His primary field of interests concerns the Turkic nomads of Medieval Eurasia: The Turkic World and its relations with Rus', Byzantium, the Caucasus, the Iranian world and the Islamic lands; Turkic philology, Hungarian Proto-history, Caucasian Studies. His many scholarly publications include *An Introduction to the History of the Turkic Peoples: Ethnogenesis and State-Formation in Medieval and Early Modern Eurasia and the Middle East* (Wiesbaden, 1992), and *The King’s Dictionary: The Rasulid Hexaglot: Fourteenth Century Vocabularies in Arabic, Persian, Turkic, Greek, Armenian and Mongol* (Leiden, 2000). Professor Golden will discuss his most recent book, *Central Asia in World History* (Oxford 2011) at this year’s Presidential Panel.

Hans Utter: Sitar Performance

Hans Utter has a PhD. in Ethnomusicology from The Ohio State University. His current research focuses on the Imdad Khan Gharana, including a detailed study of Ustad Vilayat Khan’s sitar and vocal techniques. He has conducted research in cognitive Ethnomusicology on entrainment with non-periodic music. He has researched the music of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Armenia, and has studied the do-tar in Dushanbe. Hans is a lecturer in musicology at Ohio State University, and has worked as a course writer, and a visiting consultant at several universities. He is the author of *Trance, Ritual, and Rhythm: The Cult of Mahasu Deota in the Western Himalayas* (B.R. Rhythms 2010). A disciple of sitarist Ustad Shujaat Khan, he has performed in America, Canada, Europe, and India.
# Conference Schedule

## Thursday, September 15, 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:00PM – 5:30PM</td>
<td>Conference Registration in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30PM – 7:00PM</td>
<td>Welcome Reception, Sitar performance, Cash Bar in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge</td>
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## Friday, September 16, 2011

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 4:00PM</td>
<td>Conference Registration in Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor lounge</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 5:45PM</td>
<td>Book Exhibit in Pfahl Hall, 3rd Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30AM – 5:15PM</td>
<td>Conference Panels in Pfahl Hall, see panel schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15PM – 1:30PM</td>
<td>Break for Lunch: see program for suggestions</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00PM – 7:15PM</td>
<td>Plenary Address by Peter Perdue, “When Central Eurasia was not Central: Strange and Familiar Parallels, 1350–1750” in Blackwell ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30PM – 9:30PM</td>
<td>Conference Banquet, Cash bar in Blackwell ballroom</td>
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<td>Conference Panels in Pfahl Hall, see panel schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15PM – 1:30PM</td>
<td>Break for Lunch: see program for suggestions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30PM – 3:00PM</td>
<td>CESS Executive Board Meeting (Board Members Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30PM – 5:15PM</td>
<td>Presidential Panel, <em>Central Asia in World History</em> with Peter Golden in Blackwell Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30PM – 6:15PM</td>
<td>CESS Business Meeting in Pfahl Hall, Room 202 (all CESS members are encouraged to attend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15PM</td>
<td>Dinner (on your own, see program for suggestions)</td>
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## Sunday, September 18, 2011

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<td>8:00AM – 1:00PM</td>
<td>Book Exhibit in Pfahl Hall, 3rd Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM – 12:45PM</td>
<td>Conference Panels in Pfahl Hall, see panel schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00AM – 12:45PM</td>
<td>Conference Committee Meeting in Executive Board Room, Plaza</td>
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### General Information

Transportation: The COTA bus system provides transportation throughout Columbus. Bus Number 2 travels North and South on High Street. Tickets can be purchased on the bus. Fares are $1.75 for a one way ticket, or $4.00 for a day pass. For more information about other routes see [http://www.cota.com/](http://www.cota.com/). Also see the Campus Area bus services: [http://tp.osu.edu/cabs/](http://tp.osu.edu/cabs/)

### Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Route and Stop</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adriatica’s Pizza</strong></td>
<td>New York Style Pizza, thin crust, thick crust, Sicilian</td>
<td>265 West 11th Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>On Campus, Walk South across the oval.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dragon Fly Neo V.</strong></td>
<td>Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-free</td>
<td>247 King Ave.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dragonflyneov.com">http://www.dragonflyneov.com</a></td>
<td>Take Bus Number 2 South. Get off near King.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Karavan Treasures from Turkey</strong></td>
<td>Folk art from Turkey and Central Asia</td>
<td>771-B North High Street</td>
<td><a href="http://www.karavancolumbus.com/">http://www.karavancolumbus.com/</a></td>
<td>Take Bus Number 2 South. Get off near Hubbard. Say hello to Bulent Bekcioglu, the shop owner and our lecturer in Turkish Language at Ohio State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barley’s Brewing Company</strong></td>
<td>Columbus’s local brewing company</td>
<td>467 North High Street</td>
<td><a href="http://www.barleysbrewing.com/">http://www.barleysbrewing.com/</a></td>
<td>Take Bus Number 2 South. Get off near Spruce Street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner (continued)</td>
<td>Campus places worth visiting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Columbus Brewing Company</strong>&lt;br&gt;Beer and Burgers&lt;br&gt;525 Short Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.columbusbrewingco.com/">http://www.columbusbrewingco.com/</a>&lt;br&gt;Take Bus Number 2 South.&lt;br&gt;Get off near Front street.</td>
<td><strong>The Wexner Center for the Arts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Contemporary art, film and performance:&lt;br&gt;The Fall Exhibition opens September 15th!&lt;br&gt;1871 North High Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://wexarts.org/">http://wexarts.org/</a>&lt;br&gt;On Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Schmidt’s Restaurant and Sausage House</strong>&lt;br&gt;The best Kalbasa in Columbus&lt;br&gt;240 East Kossuth Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.schmidthaus.com/">http://www.schmidthaus.com/</a>&lt;br&gt;Take Bus Number 2 South.</td>
<td><strong>The Biological Science Greenhouse Conservatory</strong>&lt;br&gt;Plants from all varieties of climate zones&lt;br&gt;332 W 12th Ave&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/pcmb/greenhouse/ghconserv_tour.html">http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/pcmb/greenhouse/ghconserv_tour.html</a>&lt;br&gt;On campus</td>
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<tr>
<th>Finer Dining</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Information</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taj Mahal</strong>&lt;br&gt;Indian Cuisine&lt;br&gt;2321 North High Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.tajmahalcolumbus.com/informations.php">http://www.tajmahalcolumbus.com/informations.php</a></td>
<td><strong>Kinko’s Fed Ex Office and Print Shop</strong>&lt;br&gt;18 E. 15th, just off of High Street&lt;br&gt;(614) 294-7485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rigsby’s Kitchen</strong>&lt;br&gt;698 North High Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.rigsbyskitchen.com/">http://www.rigsbyskitchen.com/</a></td>
<td><strong>Taxi Services</strong>&lt;br&gt;Yellow Cab: (614) 444-4444&lt;br&gt;ACME Taxi: (614) 777-7777&lt;br&gt;Ask about the fare and method of payment before you get into the taxi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G. Michael’s Bistro</strong>&lt;br&gt;595 S. Third St.&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://gmiichaelsbistro.com/">http://gmiichaelsbistro.com/</a></td>
<td><strong>Port Columbus International Airport</strong>&lt;br&gt;4600 International Gateway&lt;br&gt;Columbus, Ohio 43219&lt;br&gt;(614) 239-4000&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://flycolumbus.com/">http://flycolumbus.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shish Kebob Mediterranean Grill</strong>&lt;br&gt;450 Bethel Road, Bethel Road Center&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.shishkebabgrill.com/">http://www.shishkebabgrill.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lindey’s</strong>&lt;br&gt;169 East Beck Street&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.lindeys.com/">http://www.lindeys.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Map of Blackwell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blackwell ~ 2nd Floor</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Outdoor patio</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Stairs from hotel lobby</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pfahl Hall ~ 1st Floor</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. First Floor Break Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Pfahl 140, Tiered Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Executive Boardroom</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pfahl Hall ~ 2nd Floor</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Second Floor Break Area, Registration/Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Pfahl 202, Tiered Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Pfahl 230 &amp; 240, Conference Rooms</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pfahl Hall ~ 3rd Floor</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Third Floor Break Area, Vendors</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Pfahl 302, Tiered Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Pfahl 330 &amp; 340, Conference Rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Pfahl 320 &amp; 324, Breakouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1: Friday, September 16, 8:30am-10:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the North Caucasus, Room 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Georgian Anthropology and Literature, Room 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Water and the Environmental Transformation of Central Asia, Room 240</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasian Environments (1)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Techniques of State Power, Room 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Architecture and Urban Culture in Eurasia, Room 330</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Reform and Corruption in Education, Room 340</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 2: Friday, September 16, 10:30am-12:15pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Colonial Turkestan, Room 202</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Contemporary Georgian Culture, Room 230</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. <strong>Land, Rocks, Soil, and the Eurasian Environment</strong>, Room 240</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasian Environments (2)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Central Asian Discourse Studies: Articulating Group, Nation and Faith, Room 302</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Making Government Accountable, Room 330</td>
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<td>F. Localizing Diversity in Tibet, Room 340</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 3: Friday, September 16, 1:30pm-3:15pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Meeting Inequality with Justice, Room 202</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Investigating Central Asian History, Room 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. <strong>Understanding and Controlling Nature</strong>, Room 240</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasian Environments (3)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Film: “Through the Looking Glass: the Andijan Massacre,” with Filmmaker Monica Whitlock, Room 302</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Eurasian Macro Trends, Room 330</td>
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<td>F. Creating Electronic Research Resources about Central Asia, Room 340</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 4: Friday, September 16, 3:30pm-5:15pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Geopolitical Gamesmanship, Room 202</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Cooperation and Soft Power, Room 230</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. <strong>Roundtable: Eurasian Environmental History in a Global Perspective: Future Directions for Study and Contributions to the Field</strong>, Room 240</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eurasian Environments (4)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Islam as Anti-Politics, Room 302</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Testing, Teaching, Tuition, and Transitions: Higher Education in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, Room 330</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Economic Challenges Facing the Caucasus and Ukraine, Room 340</td>
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</table>
List of Panels

**Session 5: Saturday, September 17, 8:30am-10:15am**

A. Oral Histories, Minorities, and the People of the Diaspora, Room 202  
B. Diaspora, Exile, and Language in the Negotiation of Identities, Room 230  
C. *Steppe Environments, Room 240, Eurasian Environments (5)*  
D. Strategic Feasting: Exchange and Alliance in Tough Times, Room 302  
E. Cultural Confluences in Context, Room 330

**Session 6: Saturday, September 17, 10:30am-12:15pm**

A. Central Asian History: New Approaches to Old Sources, Room 202  
C. *Fruits of the Waters, Room 240, Eurasian Environments (6)*  
D. The Making of Identities, Unpacked, Room 302  
E. Nation and Sentiment in Expression, Room 330  
F. Social Factors in Business Enterprise, Room 340

**Session 7: Saturday, September 17, 1:30pm-3:15pm**

A. Roundtable: Contemporary Independent Islamic Literature in Central Asia, Room 202  
B. Mongol Rule in West Asia, Room 230  
C. *Infrastructure, Development, and Environment, Room 240, Eurasian Environments (7)*  
D. Reconceptualizing Religious Revival and Mobilization, Room 302  
E. Social Media, Mediated Society, Room 330  
F. Soviet Transformations of Childhood and Family, Room 340

**Session 8: Saturday, September 17, 3:30pm-5:15pm**

Presidential Panel Roundtable on *Central Asia* in World History with Peter Golden, Room 302

**Session 9: Sunday, September 18, 9:00am-10:45am**

A. Political Elites in the Mongol Empire, Room 202  
B. Caucasian Linguistics, Room 230  
C. Self-Governing Groups in the Political Economy of Central Asia, Room 302  
D. Interpreting and Resolving Ethnic Conflict, Room 330  
E. Investigating Modern Central Asia, Room 340

**Session 10: Sunday, September 18, 11:00am-12:45pm**

A. Roundtable: Impact of the Bologna Process on Russian Universities, Room 202  
B. Georgian History, Room 240  
C. New Directions in the History of Modern Xinjiang, Room 302  
D. Linguistic Investigations, Room 330  
E. Central Asian Historical Literature, Room 340
<table>
<thead>
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<td>Pfahl 330</td>
<td>Architecture and Urban Culture in Eurasia</td>
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<td>Pfahl 340</td>
<td>Reform and Corruption in Education</td>
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### Saturday September 17, 2011

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<th>Session 5</th>
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<td>Oral Histories, Minorities, and the People of the Diaspora</td>
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<td>Roundtable: Contemporary Independent Islamic Literature in Central Asia</td>
<td>Mongol Rule in West Asia</td>
<td>Infrastructure, Development, and Environment</td>
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<td>3:30pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>Presidental Panel Roundtable on Central Asia in World History</td>
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### Sunday September 18, 2011

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<td>9:00am-10:45am</td>
<td>Political Elites in the Mongol Empire</td>
<td>Caucasian Linguistics</td>
<td>Self-Governing Groups in the Political Economy of Central Asia</td>
<td>Interpreting and Resolving Ethnic Conflict</td>
<td>Investigating Modern Central Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am-12:45pm</td>
<td>Roundtable: Impact of the Bologna Process on Russian Universities</td>
<td>Georgian History</td>
<td>New Directions in the History of Modern Xinjiang</td>
<td>Linguistic Investigations</td>
<td>Central Asian Historical Literature</td>
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## Complete Conference Schedule

Central Eurasian Studies Society  
12th Annual Conference  
September 15–18  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

### Thursday, September 15

3:00 – 5:30PM Conference Registration in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge

5:30 – 7:00PM Welcoming Reception, Sitar performance, Cash Bar in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge

### Friday, September 16

7:30AM  Conference Registration begins in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge; Book exhibit, 3rd floor lounge

### Session 1: Friday, September 16, 8:30am-10:15am

**Session 1-A: Room 202: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on the North Caucasus**  
Chair: Julie Fairbanks, Coe College; Discussant: Seteney Shami, Social Science Research Council

- **From Princely Fiefdoms to Soviet Nations: Border Delimitation, Nation-Building and Interethnic Relations in the Northwest Caucasus; Kabardino-Balkaria and its Neighbors, 1920-1928.**  
  Ian Lanzillotti, Ohio State University

- **(Re)Writing Circassian Women’s (Hi)Stories**  
  Lidia Zhigunova, Tulane University

- **The Ideology of Contemporary Circassian Nationalism**  
  Sufian Zhemukhov, George Washington University

- **Distinctive Features of Post-Soviet Circassian Literature**  
  Madina Khakusaheva, National Humanities Institute (Nalchik, Russia)

**Session 1-B: Room 230, Georgian Anthropology and Literature**  
Chair: John Colarusso, McMaster University; Discussant: Dodona Kiziria, Indiana University

- **Georgian National Narrative Culture, Certainty and/or Ambivalence**  
  Bela Tsipuria, Ilia State University

- **The Neoplatonic Basis of the Indians and the Kajis in Shota Rustaveli's The Man in the Leopard Skin.**  
  Bert Beynen, Philadelphia University

- **Studies on Sassanian Geographic Terminology in Georgian Sources**  
  Helen Gunashvili, Practical School of Advanced Studies at the Sorbonne/CNRS
Session 1-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Water and the Environmental Transformation of Central Asia
Chair and Discussant: Nicholas Breyfogle, Ohio State University

Julia Obertreis, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg

‘Native’ Rice, American Cotton, and the Struggle for Water in Central Asia Under Russian Rule
Maya Peterson, Harvard (mayaworld@gmail.com)

Changing Tides on the Oxus: The Lower Amu Daria, 1920s to 1940s
Christian Teichmann, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Session 1-D: Room 302, Techniques of State Power
Chair: Virginia Martin, University of Wisconsin-Madison ; Discussant: Rian Thum, Loyola University

Vaccination of All the Imperial Subjects: On the history of the medical treatments of the Kalmyk Buddhist monks
Takehiko Inoue, Hokkaido University (Sapporo, Japan)

The Transformation of Islamic Law under the Russian Empire and the Decline of the Akhund
Nathan Spannaus, McGill University

Uyghur language, language policy and cultural identity in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
Mettursun Beydulla, Harvard University

Constructing Victimhood, Creating National Identity: Politics, Memory and the Legacy of Nuclear Testing in Kazakhstan
Cynthia Werner, Texas A and M University

Session 1-E: Room 230, Architecture and Urban Culture in Eurasia
Chair: Grigory Kaganov, The European University in Saint-Petersburg; Discussant: Michael Brose, University of Wyoming

New socio-spatial forms in Astana
Almagul Nurusheva, Eurasian National University after L.N. Gumilev

The collective memory of Yerevan as a Classification System
Susanne Fehlings, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, Eberhard Karls University

Authority and Urban transformation in 18th-19th century Russian and Ottoman Empires: comparative analysis
Session 1-F: Room 340, Reform and Corruption in Education
Chair: Alan De Young, University of Kentucky; Discussant: Eric Lepisto, Independent Researcher

Characterizing corruption in higher education: information manipulation, confidence, uncertainty and risk of detection
Mariam Orkodashvili, Vanderbilt University

Importance of School Health Education in the Republic of Kazakhstan from the Viewpoint of World Development (HDI) and Its Actual Condition
Atsushi Ogihara and Atsushi Saito, Waseda University

Education in Turkmenistan: Past, Present and the Future
Maral Meredova, Union of Economists of Turkmenistan

10:15am- 10:30am: Coffee and Tea Break, Pfahl Hall, Second Floor

Session 2: Friday, September 16, 10:30am-12:15pm

Session 2-A: Room 202, Colonial Turkestan
Chair and Discussant: Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College

Re-Photography and Rule: A Contest for Turkestan in Album Images of Khodzhend and the Citadel
Heather Sonntag, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Compromise between Customs and Civilization: Integration of Traditional Institutions into Administrative System of Russia in Central Asia, 1864-1867
Dmitriy Vasilyev, Institute of Business and Politics

Self-identification of the representatives of imperial elite of Turkestan under the Soviet power (1917-1930)
Oksana Pugovkina, Institute of History of Uzbek Academy of Sciences

Session 2-B: Room 230, Contemporary Georgian Culture
Chair: TBA
Discussant: Bela Tsipuria, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Social Media and Voices of Dissent in the Republic of Georgia
Paul Crego, Library of Congress

The Generation of the Sixties in the United States and the Soviet Union
Dodona Kiziria, Indiana University

The Megrelian Alphabet and Megrelian Printed Books (1880-1900)
Tinatin Bolkvadze, Ivane Javakhishvili State University
**Session 2-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Land, Rocks, Soil, and the Eurasian Environment**  
Chair and Discussant: Christopher Otter, Ohio State University

- **Reusable Rocks and Soviet Pollution: The Case of Khibiny Nepheline**  
  Andy Bruno, Northern Illinois University

- **Adapting to ‘Permafrost Country’: The Soviet Encounter with Frozen Earth**  
  Pey-Yi Chu, Princeton University

- **The Metaphorics of Soil in Eurasia: The Legacy of Justus von Liebig**  
  Mieka Erley, UC-Berkeley

**Session 2-D: Room 302, Central Asian Discourse Studies: Articulating Group, Nation and Faith**  
Chair: Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University; Discussant: Elo-Hanna Seljamaa, Ohio State University

- **Proverbs, Politics, and Patriotism**  
  Erik Aasland, Fuller Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

- **The Guide after Rumi: Discourses of Tradition in Tajik Sufism**  
  Benjamin Gatling, Ohio State University

- **Uncertainty and Authority in Contemporary Afghan Political Discourse**  
  Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University

**Session 2-E: Room 330, Making Government Accountable**  
Chair and Discussant: Gulnaz Sharafutdinova, Miami University

- **Accelerating Non-oil Diversification for Azerbaijan - a Policy Dilemma**  
  George Wright, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- **Youth local movement against the Politburo in Communist Mongolia: (1989-12-7)**  
  Tamir Chultemsuren, University of California, Berkeley

- **Rethinking Citizenship from Below: 'Usable Selves™ and Everyday Politics in Rural Uzbekistan**  
  Nicolas Gosset, University Libre de Bruxelles

**Session 2-F: Room 340, Localizing Diversity in Tibet**  
Chair and Discussant: Elliot Sperling, Indiana University

- **Re-centering the Twentieth century Sino-Tibetan frontier: Power, Authority and Conflict in the Gung ru Mkha' 'gro ma female reincarnate lineage near Bla brang**  
  Pete Faggen, Indiana University

- **From the Wild to the Nursery: Twentieth-century changes in collecting Tibetan medicinal herbs**  
  Katie Ottaway, Indiana University

- **Contemporary knowledge of the Sa skya 'Bag mo**  
  Sara Conrad, Indiana University

12:15pm– 1:30pm: Break for Lunch, see page 7-8 for suggestions
Session 3: Friday, September 16, 1:30pm-3:15pm

**Session 3-A: Room 202, Meeting Inequality with Justice**
Chair and Discussant: Laura Adams, Harvard University

- **Access to Justice in Post-Soviet Reality (case of Kyrgyzstan)**
  Seitek Asanov, Kyrgyz National University

- **Educational Stratification in the Second Decade of Post-Socialist Transition**
  Christopher Whitsel, North Dakota State University

- **Losers of Market Transition in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**
  Azamat Junisbai, Pitzer College

**Session 3-B: 230, Investigating Central Asian History**
Chair: Nurten Kilic-Schubel, Kenyon College; Discussant: Heather Sonntag, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **The impact of the Mongol vengeance system on sedentary peoples**
  Florence Theresa Hodous, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

- **Binding Books and Binding Geographies in Chinese Turkestan**
  Rian Thum, Loyola University

**Session 3-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Understanding and Controlling Nature**
Chair and Discussant: Douglas Weiner, Arizona

- **Ambivalence and Imperial Knowledge: Geographies of the Kazakh Steppe, 1845-1860s**
  Ian Campbell, UC Davis

- **Unceasing Vigilance: Engineers, Professionalism and a Path to Modernity in the Russian Empire, 1809-1878**
  Randall Dills, University of Louisville

- **Explorations in Tiger Country: Travelers, Scientists, and Settlement and in Russian Primorye**
  Mark Sokolsky, Ohio State University

**Session 3-D: Room 302, Film: “Through the Looking Glass: the Andijan Massacre,” with Filmmaker Monica Whitlock**

**Session 3-E: Room 330, Eurasian Macro Trends**
Chair and Discussant: TBA

- **Demographic Changes in Central Asia: Socio-Economic Implications**
  Zafar Husanov, Gallaaral Branch of Institute of Agriculture,Uzbekistan

- **Sub-national Political Variation and Property Rights in Russia**
  Gulnaz Sharafutdinova, Miami University
Session 3-F: Room 340, Creating Electronic Research Resources about Central Asia
Chair: Nathan Light, Max Planck Institute; Discussant: Arienne Dwyer, The University of Kansas

Constructing Comprehensive Database of the Islamic Sacred Sites (mazars) in Xinjiang.
Jun Sugawara, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Enhancing cyberinfrastructure for Central Eurasian Studies
Arienne Dwyer, The University of Kansas

Electronic Resources for Uyghur
Gulnar Eziz, Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences/University of Kansas

3:15pm–3:30pm: Coffee and tea break, Pfahl Hall 2nd Floor

Session 4: Friday, September 16, 3:30pm-5:15pm

Session 4-A: Room 202, Geopolitical Gamesmanship
Chair and Discussant: Noah Tucker, US Department of Defense

Playing Chess on the Eurasian Steppe: The State of the Energy "Game" Ten Years Into the New Millennium in Russia and the Near Abroad
Daniel Burghart,

Kazakh Nationalism in Eurasian Context
Gulnara Dadabayeva, KIMEP (Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research)

Obama’s Central Asia
Dilchoda Berdieva, Miami University

Session 4-B: Room 230, Cooperation and Soft Power
Chair and Discussant: Stanley Toops

Cooperation Possibilities at the Black Sea
Yelda Demirag, Baskent University

Actual problems and prospects of CIS interparliamentary institutions
Asel Murzakulova, Bishkek Humanities University
Session 4-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Roundtable: Eurasian Environmental History in a Global Perspective: Future Directions for Study and Contributions to the Field

Session 4-D: Room 302, Islam as Anti-Politics
Chair: Marianne R. Kamp, University of Wyoming; Discussant: Morgan Y. Liu, Ohio State University

For Caesar and for God: Muslim Tatar Women's Negotiation of Islamic Piety and Loyalty to the Russian State
Liliya Karimova, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Islam and Governance in Central Asia's "Stateless" Territories
Eric McGlinchey, George Mason University

Individual Moral Projects in the Ferghana Valley of Post-Soviet Central Asia
Svetlana Peshkova, University of New Hampshire

Unbearable "Secular" Islam in Central Asia
John Schoeberlein, Harvard University

Session 4-E: Room 330, Testing, Teaching, Tuition, and Transitions: Higher Education in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan
Chair: Christopher Whitsel, North Dakota State University; Discussant: Safaroz Niyozov, University of Toronto

Negotiating Re-gendered Spaces at Khujand Pedagogical University
Alan DeYoung, University of Kentucky

Predicting Differential Item Functioning in Cross-Lingual Testing: The Case of a High Stakes Test in the Kyrgyz Republic
Todd Drummond, Michigan State University

Exports, Experts, and Experiments: Internationalizing Quality Assurance in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
Martha Merrill, Kent State University

The Teaching Methodology of Kazakhstan
Zhazira Turlanbekova, Kent State University

Session 4-F: Room 340, Economic Challenges Facing the Caucasus and Ukraine
Chair: Thomas Wood, University of South Carolina, Aiken
Discussant: Kijong Kim, Levy Institute of Economics

Effect of flat tax reform on the size of the shadow economy in Georgia
Karine Torosyan, Tbilisi State University

The Changes in the Nature of Self-Employment in Georgia
Tamar Khitarishvili, Bard College

The Role of Armenian Diaspora in Armenia's International Trade
Lilith Sargsyan, International School of Economics in Tbilisi

Gender Earnings Gap Dynamics in the Changing Ukraine
Norberto Pignatti, International School of Economics in Tbilisi
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:00 – 7:15PM: Plenary Address by Peter Perdue in Blackwell ballroom

“When Central Eurasia was not Central: Strange and Familiar Parallels, 1350–1750”
followed by banquet and cash bar

7:30PM– 9:30PM

Saturday, September 17

8:00AM: Conference registration begins in Pfahl Hall, 2nd floor lounge; Book exhibits, Pfhal Hall, 3rd floor

Session 5: Saturday, September 17, 8:30am-10:15am

Session 5-A: Room 202, Oral Histories, Minorities, and the People of the Diaspora
Chair: Daniel Prior, Miami University
Discussant: Jeff Sahadeo, Carleton University

Boy Loves Tractor: stories of mechanization on Uzbek collective farms
Marianne Kamp, University of Wyoming

Symbolism and politics of memory: Oral Histories of Minority Communities in post-Stalinist Azerbaijan
Krista Goff, University of Michigan

Soviet Heroines of Kyrgyzstan: Actresses and Beet-growers
Ali Igmen, California State University Long Beach

The Uyghur Retreat to Kashmir and into the Diaspora
Peter Sinnott, Independent Scholar

Session 5-B: Room 230, Diaspora, Exile, and Language in the Negotiation of Identities
Chair and Discussant: Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University

The Complexities of the Role of the Armenian Diaspora on the Armenian National Identity (1988-2010): a View from Within
Sevan Beukian, University of Alberta

Differing Views on Exile: "Special Relocation" in Post-War Kazakhstan
Isaac Scarborough, Independent Scholar
Session 5-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Steppe Environments
Chair and Discussant: John Brooke, Ohio State University

Changes in a Hungry Land: Nomads, Settlers and the Ecology of the Kazakh Steppe, 1870-1916
Sarah Cameron, Yale University

Desiccated Steppes: Droughts, Erosion, Climate Change, and the Crisis of Soviet Agriculture, 1960s-1980s
Marc Elie, CNRS Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen

Planting Trees in Unsuitable Places: Russian Steppe Forestry, 1696-1850
David Moon, University of Durham

Session 5-D: Room 302, Strategic Feasting: Exchange and Alliance in Tough Times
Chair and Discussant: Cynthia Werner, Texas A&M University

A View from a Kazakh Village: Family Wedding Strategies in Qilik
William Clark, University of Washington

Kyrgyz feasts and migrant modernities: making place through remittance practice
Igor Rubinov, Clark University

Good Feasts and Bad: Kyrgyz Feasting, Exchange Relations and Anthropological Theory
Nathan Light, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Alliances between xesh (parents) or between begona (strangers): Matrimonial strategies among Tajiks of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, alternating from endogamy to exogamy
Christilla Marteau d'Autry, University of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense

Session 5-E: Room 330, Cultural Confluences in Context
Chair and Discussant: Russell Zanca, Northeastern Illinois University

The Figurines of Tureng Tepe: A Morphological, Stylistic and Contextual Analysis
Kyle Olson, Ohio State University

Mongolian Modern: From Centered Places to Encompassing Spaces
Alan Wheeler, Lee University

Pashtun Women in Jalalabad Working for NGOs Negotiations between Cultures
Melissa Skye Kerr, University of Connecticut

10:15am– 10:30am: Coffee and tea break, Pfahl Hall 2nd Floor
**Session 6-A: Room 202, Central Asian History: New Approaches to Old Sources**
Chair: Ruth Dunnell, Kenyon College
Discussant: Beatrice F. Manz, Tufts University

**Insha collections in Uzbekistan: generalness, difference and peculiarity**
Gulchekhra Sultonova, The Institute of History the Academy of the Sciences of Uzbekistan

**The Death of Nadira-Begin: Narratives of Royal Women, Legitimacy and Gender Politics in Early Modern Central Asia**
Nurten Kilic-Schubel, Kenyon College

**O, Nava’i! Imitation, emulation and aspiration in Khoqandian poetry ca. 1800-1822.**
Nicholas Walmsley, Indiana University

**Session 6-B: Room 230, Roundtable: New Research in Azerbaijan: Findings and Experiences Across Disciplines**
Chair: Jeff Sahadeo, Carleton University

Marcy McCullaugh, University of California, Berkeley
Krista Goff, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Nicholas Alexander Lund, Stanford University
Alison Mandaville, Pacific Lutheran University
Jennifer Wistrand, Washington University, St. Louis

**Session 6-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Fruits of the Waters**
Chair and Discussant: Brian Bonhomme, Youngstown State

**Collectivizing the Ocean: The Environmental History of the Pomor**
Stephen Brain, Mississippi State University

**A Revolution for the Fish? The Politics and Culture of Fishing in Lake Baikal**
Nicholas Breyfogle, Ohio State University

**Russia, Whales, and the World**
Ryan Jones, Appalachian State University

**Session 6-D: Room 302, The Making of Identities, Unpacked**
Chair: Dilchoda Berdieva, Miami University
Discussant: Shoshana Keller, Hamilton College

**Soviet Cultural Project in Central Asia**
Farhad Atai, University of Tehran

**Imomi Azam is the Father of the Tajiks: The Making and Unmaking of Identity in Tajikistan**
Zohra Ismail Beben, Indiana University Bloomington
Daniel Beben, Indiana University - Bloomington
Session 6-E: Room 330, Nation and Sentiment in Expression
Chair: Laura Adams, Harvard University
Discussant: Hans Utter, Ohio State University

Creativity and Sorrow in Kyrgyzstan
Maureen Pritchard, School of Oriental and African Studies

Modes of music circulation in Tbilisi, Georgia
Brigita Sebald, UCLA

Islamic and Pop Culture of Uzbekistan: Changing concepts after Osh tragedy
Laliya Yakhyaeva, FGCU (Florida Gulf Coast University)

Session 6-F: Room 340, Social Factors in Business Enterprise
Chair and Discussant: Eric McGlinchey, George Mason University

Social capital and Government Regulation in the Small and Medium Businesses sector: The Case of Kazakhstan
Marina Lukmanova, Rudnyi Industrial Institute

Corporate social responsibility of business in Kazakhstan
Bakhtnur Otarbayeva, International Academy of Business

Religion, ethnicity and entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan
Gul Berna Ozcan, University of London

12:15pm– 1:30pm: Break for Lunch, see page 7-8 for suggestions

Session 7: Saturday, September 17, 1:30pm-3:15pm

Session 7-A: Room 202, Roundtable: Contemporary Independent Islamic Literature in Central Asia
Chair: David Abramson, US State Department

Allen Frank, Independent Scholar
Laliya Yahyayeva, Florida Gulf Coast University
Wendell Schwab, Indiana University
Noah Tucker, US Department of Defense

Session 7-B: Room 230, Mongol Rule in West Asia
Chair: Ruth Dunnell, Kenyon College
Discussant: Anne Broadbridge, University of Massachusetts

The Problem of the Pervane: Mongol rule in Rum
Timothy May, North Georgia College and State University

The Rich Rum Saljuqs and the Sprawling Il-Khanate: Evidence for Economic Integration
Judith Kolbas, Miami University

Mongol Coins in the Ilkhanate
Zohreh Baseri, National Museum of Iran
Session 7-C: Room 240, Eurasian Environments: Infrastructure, Development, and Environment
Chair and Discussant: Erika Monahan, University of New Mexico

Inter-Imperial Flows: The Development of Trabzon and the Russo-Ottoman Frontier
Megan Dean, Stanford University

The Environmental Costs of Soviet Arctic Development: The Russian Northwest
Paul Josephson, Colby College

The First Crimean Excursions: Scholarship, Enlightenment, and Nature, 1876-1914
George Lywood, Ohio State University

Session 7-D: Room 302, Reconceptualizing Religious Revival and Mobilization
Chair and Discussant: Russell Zanca, Northeastern Illinois University

Tensions between academic scholarship and Central Asian Muslim traditions: Perspectives from Religious Studies
Shaftolu Gulamadov, University of Toronto

Soul of the Mazar - Han Tourists, Uyghur Pilgrims, and Sacred Space in Xinjiang
Aaron Michael Gilkison, Miami University

Session 7-E: Room 330, Social Media, Mediated Society
Chair: Arienne Dwyer, The University of Kansas

Social Media, Cyber-dissent, and Constraints on Online Political Communication in Repressitarian Central Asia
Eric Freedman, Michigan State University
Brian J. Bowe, Grand Valley State University
Robin Blom, Michigan State University

Camera Phones, Information communication Technologies and Social Movements
Afsaneh J. Haddadian, Wright State University

Session 7-F: Room 340, Soviet Transformations of Childhood and Family
Chair: Matthew Payne, Emory University
Discussant: Svetlana Peshkova, University of New Hampshire

Physical culture for modern children
Shoshana Keller, Hamilton College

Home, Family, and Mobility: South-North Migration Strategies in Brezhne’s USSR
Jeff Sahadeo, Carleton University

Playing at War: Children’s intsenarovki (skits) of World War II in late Soviet-era Kazakhstan
Margarethe Adams, University of Illinois
Session 8: Saturday, September 17, 3:30pm-5:15pm

Session 8: Room 302, Presidential Panel Roundtable on Central Asia in World History with Peter Golden
Chair: Scott Levi, Ohio State University
Peter Golden, Rutgers University
Daniel Prior, Miami University
Carter Findley, Ohio State University

5:30PM – 6:15PM: CESS Business Meeting in Pfahl Hall, Room 202
All CESS members are encouraged to attend

Sunday, September 18

8:00 am: Conference registration, 2nd floor lounge; and book exhibits begins

Session 9: Sunday, September 18, 9:00am-10:45am

Session 9-A: Room 202, Political Elites in the Mongol Empire
Chair: Timothy May, North Georgia College and State University
Discussant: Charles Halperin, Indiana University

Networks of Learning in Yuan China
Michael Brose, University of Wyoming

Tangut Martial Families in Gansu under the Yuan Dynasty, 13th-14th centuries
Ruth Dunnell, Kenyon College

Imperial Women in the Mongol Empire
Anne Broadbridge, University of Massachusetts

Session 9-B: Room 230, Caucasian Linguistics
Chair: Helen Giunashvili, Practical School of Advanced Studies at the Sorbonne/CNRS

Argument structure in Georgian and Mengrelian nominalizations
Leila Lomashvili, Shawnee State University

Evidentiality in Svanetian Conjugation.
Ketevan Margiani-Subari, Arnold Chikobava Institute of Linguistics, Tbilisi

Some Historical Links between South and Northwest Caucasian
John Colarusso, McMaster University
Session 9-C: Room 302, Self-Governing Groups in the Political Economy of Central Asia
Chair & Discussant: Morgan Liu, Ohio State University

- Informal Relations in the Central Asian Energy Sector
  Stacy Closson, University of Kentucky

- Changing State-Crime Dynamics in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
  Erica Marat, American University, DC

- Self-governing groups: norm, structure and function
  Gul Berna Ozcan, University of London

Session 9-D: Room 330, Interpreting and Resolving Ethnic Conflict
Chair and Discussant: Thomas Wood, University of South Carolina, Aiken

- Working Through Painful Past: Kyrgyzstan’s Predicament and International Experience
  Emilbek Dzhuraev, University of Maryland

- To Cut the Knot: A Gordian Solution to the Turkish-Armenian Question
  Robert Nalbandov, Angelo State University

Session 9-E: Room 340, Investigating Modern Central Asia
Chair and Discussant: Kimberly Powers, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- An Invitation to Tsarist Officials: Unlawful Marriage in the 19th-Century Caucasus
  Kristin Collins, Independent Scholar

- Afghanistan’s Foreign Relations through Philately, 1948-1988
  Lawrence Cohen, Independent Scholar

- On The Armenian Manifesto circa 1923 and its Validation: As a point of departure for new dialog or adjudication
  Arnold Reisman, Independent Scholar

10:45am– 11:00am: Coffee and tea break, Pfahl Hall 2nd floor
Session 10: Sunday, September 18, 11:00pm-12:45pm

Session 10-A: Room 202, Roundtable: Impact of the Bologna Process on Russian Universities
Chair: Alexey Savvin, Voronezh State University
Denis Smorchkov, Voronezh State University
Alexey Savvin, Voronezh State University
Olga Sleptsova, Voronezh State University
Dmitriy Semenko, Baltic Federal University
Elena Lomakina, Voronezh State University
Yulia Glukhova, Voronezh State University

Session 10-B: Room 240, Georgian History
Chair: Dodona Kiziria, Indiana University; Discussant: Julie Christensen, George Mason University

Significance of the Georgian Sources about History of Qipchaks
Giuli Alasania, University of Georgia

Dynamics of Syncretization of Religious Thinking of Georgian Mountaineers (Khevsurian Beliefs)
Tina Gudushauri, University of Georgia

The first Sovereign of Achaemenids, Cyrus, and a Life of Kartli Nimrod
Manana Sanadze, University of Georgia

Session 10-C: Room 302, New Directions in the History of Modern Xinjiang
Chair: James Millward, Georgetown University; Discussant: Justin Jacobs, University of California - San Diego

Defining the Uyghur Authentic: The Loss of Literary Hegemony and the Creation of Tradition
Joshua Freeman, Xinjiang Normal University

Disjointed Dialogue: Idealism and the Turkic Imagination between Turkey and East Turkestan, 1876-1934
Eric Schluessel, Harvard University

Uyghur Music, History, and Intangible Heritage Discourse in Contemporary Xinjiang
Elise Anderson, Indiana University

The People's Festival: Improvisation and Formalization in Xinjiang Aitys
Sam Bass, Xinjiang Normal University

Session 10-D: Room 330, Linguistic Investigations
Chair: John Colarusso, Indiana University; Discussant: Andrea Sims, Ohio State University

Phonological Alternations of Loanwords in the Uzbek Tashkent Dialect
John A. Erickson, Indiana University
Umida Khikmatillaeva, Indiana University

Phonological unfaithfulness of Turkic /n/ in initial position
Jonathan Washington, Indiana University

Cognitive and pragmatic conceptualization of negation in Georgian, English, German and Russian
Mariam Orkodashvili, Vanderbilt University
Session 10-E: Room 340, Central Asian Historical Literature
Chair and Discussant: Uli Schamiloglu

Central Asia in the Context of the Russian Civil War
Christopher Fort, The Ohio State University

A Soviet 'Court Poet': Lahuti's 'Ode to the Kremlin' and Persian literary continuity in Soviet Central Asia
Samuel Hodgkin, University of Chicago

Critical Approach to Kazakh Historiography: Tynyshpaev's Cultivation of the Aqtaban Shubyryndy
Michael Hancock-Parmer, Indiana University

11:00pm – 12:45pm: Conference Committee Meeting in Executive Board Room
## Index of Speakers

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MUSICAL GEOGRAPHIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
International Conference
The Middle East and Central Asia Music Forum
Institute of Musical Research, School of Advanced Study
in association with
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
16 – 17 May 2012
Convened by Saida Daukeyeva (IMR) and Rachel Harris (SOAS)

For centuries, Central Asia has been a crossroads of civilizations, peoples and societies, a land ‘in between’ East and West and a territory contested by political powers. Its modern history, from imperial and Soviet domination to the emergence of independent nation-states, has witnessed a profound transformation of its political and social geography, calling for a re-evaluation of Central Asia as a ‘region’, not least in terms of its expressive cultures and music.

What is Central Asia as a musical region? How can we situate it musically, across its diverse localities, and in relation to the surrounding and outside worlds? What can continuity or difference in music and the existence of musical borders – whether real or imagined, inherent or imposed – tell us about the region’s social and political history and the interplay of ethnic and national identities today? It seems appropriate to ask these questions at a time when nation-building in former Soviet states, the war in Afghanistan and political conflicts in south Central Asia, migratory processes, social change and ever-increasing global influences have reshaped the region’s cultural landscape, affecting the way music is produced, mediated and experienced.

This conference will explore the musical geographies of Central Asia, focusing on regionalism and borders. The main countries of reference will be the former Soviet Central Asian states, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, the Russian Republic of Tuva, Mongolia, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, and Afghanistan. The conference will aim to locate distinctive regional, cross-regional, national and transnational music practices, styles, genres and sounds within their geocultural, political and ideological environments. Looking across a range of contemporary and historical forms – folk, art/classical and popular – it will examine the intersection of musical regionalism with long-standing clan allegiances and social hierarchies, shifting political alliances, ideological and cultural flows. It will question the existence of musically articulated borders within and between geocultural zones (e.g. Transoxiana, East Turkestan, Khorasan, Altai), nomadic-pastoral and sedentary-agricultural societies, Turkic-Mongol, Iranian and Indo-European peoples, rural and urban communities, Islam and indigenous beliefs.

Papers are invited to address the following themes:
- conceptualisation of Central Asia’s musical geography by insiders and outsiders;
- vernacular musical vocabularies and the semiology of performance and reception;
- musical depiction of place and landscape, and the bearing of topography on style;
- spatial distribution and temporal evolution of music practices;
- contemporary representation in concert venues in and outside Central Asia;
- the role of media and music technologies in the dissemination of local and global sounds;
- the impact of scholarship, state institutions and NGOs on music and related discourses;
- individual pathways of musicians and their negotiation of identity in the ever-expanding musical world.

Proposals may be submitted for:
- individual papers (30 minutes + 15 minutes for questions and discussion);
- organised sessions of 3–4 papers linked around a theme.

They should include: name and academic affiliation of proposer and contributors, email addresses, paper and session titles, and an abstract of up to 300 words for each presenter. Abstracts should not include the name of the presenter to enable them to be reviewed anonymously by the programme committee.

Proposals should be submitted to Saida Daukeyeva (Saida.Daukeyeva@sas.ac.uk) by 30 October 2011.
Bülent Bekcioğlu

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