

ScholarForum

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THE JOURNAL OF THE OPEN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The Politics of the Environment



Regional Focus:
CENTRAL ASIA AND MONGOLIA

Essays and creative works by NSP grantees and alumni

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 13th edition of *Scholar Forum*, produced from the insights and contributions of the Open Society Scholarship Programs’ current and former grantees.

A decade after the turn of the millennium, governments, corporations, businesses, and ordinary citizens are increasingly required to assess their impact on the world around them as the environmental degradation caused by human activity inflicts increasingly tangible and irreparable damage upon people, animals, and the natural world they inhabit. Whether it is responding to dangers ranging from mudslides to asbestos or devising policies to offset the carbon footprint created by the convenience of air travel or to promote public transportation over cars, governments tread a fine political line when trying to promote conservation while appeasing as many political interests as possible. As the articles from our contributing scholars show, questions and answers about the environment are highly politicized.

Central Asia and Mongolia, along with Central and Eastern Europe and other countries of the former Soviet Union, have been a strong focus for many Open Society Foundations activities, with the Scholarship Programs no exception. Five fascinating countries, with rich and ancient cultures, traditions, customs and vistas, continue to demonstrate that the economic and political devastation suffered after the fall of Communism has not destroyed their citizens’ resourcefulness and passion for improvement. Photographs from Kyrgyzstan submitted by Open Society Foundations grantee, Nail Nasritdinov, reveal that economic stress and ethnic tensions remain high in some countries, while articles highlighting environmentally-focused judicial reforms in Indonesia and the growing engagement of the third sector internationally, offer solid symbols of hope.

A new segment, the Scholarship Programs’ Academic Showcase, highlights the research work of our scholars in summary and abstract formats which we hope you will find interesting and inspiring.

An extended section on the current movements of Scholarship Programs alumni sheds light on the numerous activities of this diverse group of individuals: we encourage all our readers to reach out to these inspirational individuals!

With best wishes for a successful 2011,
Open Society Foundations Scholarship Programs

The Open Society Scholarship Programs fund the participation of students, scholars, and professionals from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, the Middle East, South Asia, and Burma in rigorous, competitive academic programs outside of their home countries. The goals of these programs are: to revitalize and reform the teaching of the social sciences and humanities at higher education institutions; to provide professional training in fields unavailable or underrepresented at institutions in the countries served; and to assist outstanding

students from a range of backgrounds to pursue their studies in alternative academic and cultural environments.

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Kadji-Say, lake Issyk-Kol, Kyrgyzstan
photo: Russell KOFF

COVER TOPIC

The Politics of the Environment

The Politics of the Environment: A Reactionary Response

Zoë BROGDEN
Program Coordinator
Open Society Scholarship Programs

It often takes misfortune for the world to sit up and take notice of an issue. The gradual destruction of the environment and the effects of climate change on local ecology and humanity alike is one of them.

The tension between the desire and, by some arguments, the right to economic growth and the need for a prudent and balanced approach toward the use of the Earth's natural resources is now more intense than ever.

The Copenhagen Summit in December 2009, which had promised to address the impotence of the Kyoto Agreement, at best achieved an impasse, hashed out in the form of an accord agreeing to lower greenhouse gas emissions to less than 2 percent without

any legal obligation to follow through. This was the best, it seems, 15 diverse nations could manage.

Reactionary scrambling to address disasters appears to be a trend. The recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a desperate example of politics and corporate power attempting to plug a man-made crisis post facto. Further afield, the strangulation of the Aral Sea, which stands at around 40 percent of its volume a mere 50 years ago, embodies a key example of the effect of political decisions in sealing the fate of a region's ecology. Life in the area has been irrevocably changed for the local population. Fishing has ceased completely, salt dispersal has depleted pastoral farming, and the local inhabitants, suffering from an associated increase in respiratory diseases, cancers, and anemia, have slowly declined or been forced into migration (UNEP, 2008).

The following collection of articles by Scholarship Programs scholars and alumni of the Open Society Institute Chevening Program, highlight the interaction of civil society and government with the environment and the unfortunate effects populations must grapple with as they go forward. ■

Climate Change in Kazakhstan

Zhanar KHAKIMZHANOVA, Kazakhstan
OSI Chevening Program 2009–2010, University of Warwick

The 21st century is expected to be saturated by changes in climate, population, and economics. According to projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the global surface temperature could increase between 1.4 and 5.80 Celsius by the end of the century, which would lead to significant shifts in precipitation and cause sea levels to rise. Translating these figures into tangible impacts, people across the world will likely face changes in coastline, agriculture, water resources, biodiversity, and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. It is crucial for countries to look ahead and to develop the right strategies and policies to cope with and mitigate climate change in order to maintain sustainable development in the future.

Like other countries, Kazakhstan will feel the effects of these changes. Estimates suggest that the mean surface temperature in Kazakhstan has increased by 1.80 Celsius over the last century, more than two times the global level. The warming processes were accelerated by the country's position far from the cooling oceans. In addition, Kazakhstan lacks enough forested areas to absorb the carbon dioxide the country produces. Despite this, total precipitation per year increased slightly, but the most crucial factor is going to be its distribution, which is expected to be uneven.

Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation distribution could have a significant impact on agriculture, which is based mainly on grain production. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, in 2009 Kazakhstan was the world's sixth largest exporter of grain, producing wheat in spring, and exporting it to more than 40 countries. A fall in yields may adversely affect not only the country itself, but also other countries. A mitigation of the impact of global warming on grain production can be implemented through combating soil erosion and introducing soil and water-holding techniques such as hedge planting and improving soil fertility by applying organic fertilizers, planting new crop varieties resistant to climatic stresses, and using alternative sources of energy, including biomass fuel.

Kazakhstan is a region short of water. The south was oriented toward the production of water-intensive agricultural crops (mainly vegetables, fruit, cotton, and rice). The vast majority of water consumed in the south was used for irrigation, which contributed to the destruction of the Aral Sea. In order to cope with the water shortage, developing and implementing efficient water-saving irrigation technologies has been suggested, which increase the proportion of groundwater. Other ideas include replacing some crops with less hydrophilous ones and developing water purification systems.

Biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems effects 70 percent of the country, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature in 2007. In the Caspian Sea, climate change could be partially responsible for the reduction of seals in 2000. About 30,000 seals died that year, some due to the relatively warm winter which led to

a significant reduction in the surface ice over the sea. Less surface area prompted seals to live and gather in higher densities, leading to the rapid spread of disease. Over the past 10 years, the population of seals in the Caspian Sea has decreased three-to-fivefold. If the temperature increases, there is a real threat of extinction.

Climate change also threatens the Northern Tien Shan mountain glaciers. Glaciers on the northern slope of Ile Alatau Ridge decreased by around 40 percent between 1955 and 2004. From the predictions of warming rates, the melting is expected to continue, and the Ile Alatau Ridge glacier could disappear by the end of the 21st century. This could be a catastrophe for Kazakhstan's biggest city, Almaty, which lies at the foothills of the Alatau Mountains. Precautions that the city could take include the construction of water reservoirs, sewage ponds, and facilities preventing mudflows.

Adaptation and mitigation actions are expected to be complicated and expensive, putting pressure on Kazakhstan's developing economy. Along with climate change adaptation actions, there are many ecological problems to cope with. On the positive side, March 1999 saw Kazakhstan sign the Kyoto Protocol, which it ratified in 2001. Kazakhstan does not exceed the allowable emission levels, however the mechanism of emissions trading could potentially stimulate Kazakhstan to reduce emissions through green energy development and efficiency gains, which are among the country's policy priorities for the future. ■

For more information, see Kazakhstan's Second National Communication to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment Protection, Astana, 2009

The Pyandj River, at the tributary of Amu-darya, on the Afghanistan–Tajikistan border
Photo: Dilya ZOIROVA



Biofuel Usage: The Climatic Advantage

Veljko VORKAPIC, Croatia

OSI Chevening Program, 2004-2005, University of Oxford

Biofuels, derived from sugar and starch crops, fats, oils, and plants, offer an array of advantages compared to fossil fuels. Biofuels, unlike fossil fuels, can work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prompt the diversification of agricultural production, and promote rural development. On the other hand, concerns have been raised due to negative impacts caused by unsustainable biofuel use. For that reason, it is necessary to ensure sustainable use of biofuels, taking into account economic, social, and environmental factors. The European Union, in its Directive 2009/28/EC on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources, set a target of 10 percent of the final energy used in transport to be obtained from renewable sources.

The primary reason for increasing the use of biofuels is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, which represented 19.5 percent of EU greenhouse gas emissions in 2007 (European Environment Agency, 2009). However, depending on how biofuels are used and the changes in land use needed to produce them, this alternative source of energy can actually cause an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (Renewable Fuels Agency, 2008; Öiko-Institut / IFEU, 2009). The EU Directive restricts the use of raw materials obtained from land with high carbon stock, such as forests and wetlands,

by 70-90 percent. Thus, in the future, it will be necessary to define mechanisms to stimulate technologies producing a biofuel according to its net greenhouse gas savings.

The cultivation of raw materials for biofuels can also compete with and reduce the production of food, feed, and other materials. This can pose problems, especially in developing countries. It is anticipated that the production of biofuels will lead to higher food

prices (MNP, 2008; FAO, 2008). A potential benefit of biofuels is that their production can encourage the diversification of agricultural production, which, in turn, produces additional income in rural areas. Due to the potential negative and positive impacts of biofuels, it is necessary for any biofuel policy to be carefully planned and integrated into the production of food, feed, and other materials. Indeed, the EU has stated that special attention will be paid to the impact European biofuel policy has on food prices.

Biofuel production can cause land use change and raise issues of biodiversity

preservation. Impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity also have to be carefully balanced with the potential for climate change mitigation. Here, the European Union defines that raw materials for biofuel production should not be obtained from areas with high biodiversity values, such as primary forests, grasslands, or wetlands. Moreover, additional concerns are raised by biofuel production, such as use of genetically modified materials and the impact on

introducing invasive species into ecosystems.

The production of biofuels has varying socioeconomic impacts that are highly dependent on local conditions. Thus, general conclusions and recommendations are difficult or impossible. The main positive socioeconomic impacts are potentially achievable in developing countries where agriculture represents a significant part of the economy. On the other hand, these regions face the largest risk from negative impacts, such as effects on land rights and working conditions. Thus, the European Union has made

“When comparing greenhouse gas emissions of biofuels and fossil fuels, it is necessary to include the whole life cycle”

a commitment to report on the ratification and implementation of the Conventions of the International Labour Organization in countries which produce biofuels or raw materials used in the European Union.

From the summary above, the EU Directive defines sustainability criteria, irrespective of whether the raw material was cultivated within the European Union. Additionally, it stimulates the use of biofuel produced from waste, residues, lignocellulosic material such as trees, and from raw materials produced on degraded land. Such second-generation biofuels are beneficial as they may reduce the demand on viable land, which can produce crops. Sustainability criteria, as defined by the Directive are an important start in ensuring sustainable use of biofuels, but further development and research is needed in areas such as indirect land use change, inclusion of emissions caused by land use change, as well in the implementation to reduce the burden for biofuel and feedstock producers. In the case of undesired effects, such as the impact on food prices and food supply, the European Union will need to reconsider its biofuel targets.

Thus, appropriately defining the sustainability criteria is important for the goals of biofuel use to be incentivized and for the long term stability of the biofuel industry. ■

“Biofuels, unlike fossil fuels, can work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”

and sets minimum greenhouse gas emission savings that are to be achieved by use of biofuels. When comparing greenhouse gas emissions of biofuels and fossil fuels, it is necessary to include the whole life cycle of fuel, ideally including direct and indirect effects. Generally, “first generation” biofuels, such as bioethanol derived from starch and sugar crops, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 to 70 percent. “Second generation” biofuels, made from waste products, reduce emissions

Central Asian Water Resources: Avenues for Cooperation and Improved Water Management

Dilafuz ZOIROVA, Tajikistan
OSI Chevening Program 2009-2010, University of Leeds

Soon after independence in the early 1990s, Central Asian republics faced the challenge of managing and distributing their water resources in a way that would suit the interests of all states. Almost 20 years later, countries seem to be further than ever from reaching an agreement on this existential issue.

Paradoxically, the problem does not lie in the scarcity of water resources. According to the International Crisis Group, there is more than enough water in the region

to support agricultural production and hydropower generation with little concern for water conservation and the environment. This is the main reason behind the near disappearance of the Aral Sea, once the world's fourth largest lake. Most experts do not believe that projects to return the sea to its original size will work and that the mission should rather be to halt its further degradation. In a positive step, Kazakhstan has undertaken relatively successful efforts to save its northern part. Here, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the World Bank, has worked toward building a dyke in order to retain water, bringing water back toward the city of Aralsk by almost 75 kilometers (World Bank 2006). The second phase aims to install another dam to elevate water levels.

However, ongoing disputes among regional states aggravate the Aral Sea problem. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, located on the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers respectively, aspire to build large hydropower

plants with the aim of exporting energy. If these ambitions of the "upstream" neighbors are realized, "downstream" nations like Uzbekistan and, to a lesser extent, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, fear a debilitating deprivation of water resources that they need in order to keep their agricultural sectors afloat. The positions of all parties can be appreciated, as countries are guided by their national interests, but since they share the region and its largest rivers, there is no other choice but to negotiate and compromise. The current environment of suspicion and mistrust makes it extremely difficult to reach any acceptable resolution.

The crisis requires both legal and technical solutions, all of which depend on the political will of the states. Irrigation and water management infrastructure is in need of modernization to reduce technical losses, whilst international law offers no easy solutions to the deadlock. It provides guidance but cannot give a roadmap. It is up to regional states to seek and reach solutions together, guided by the Central Asian tradition of mutual respect and tolerance. It is in the hands of these nations to determine what kind of region future generations will inherit. ■

"The problem does not lie in scarcity of water resources"

(ICG 2002). The matter is how water has been allocated and used since Soviet times. Soviet planners' main priority was agricul-

Lessons Learned from the Mudflow Disaster in Indonesia: "Causalistic Error" in Disaster Management

Satya UTAMA, Indonesia
OSI Chevening Program 2006-2007, University of Essex

One of the biggest environmental calamities of the 21st century is the Sidoarjo mudflow disaster in Indonesia. While the actual cause of the mudflow is still highly contested, mud has been spewing steadily over the past four years, leaving more than 30,000 people displaced.

I argued in my dissertation on "An Obligation to Protect: Assessing State Responsibility for the Violation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by Private Party" (2007), that the state, that is, the Government of Indonesia, has failed to discharge its obligation to protect economic, social, and cultural rights. From my point of view, this is based on the incompetence of the state apparatus in ensuring the compliance of private companies with existing mining safety laws and regulations; its reluctance to accelerate the adjudicative process in holding the perpetrators

to account and its failure to restore the economic, social, and cultural rights of the victims.

Law No. 24/2007 on Disaster Management was enacted one year after the first occurrence of the mud eruption in Sidoarjo and laid an important foundation toward the observance of a human rights-based approach in the field of disaster management in Indonesia. Importantly, the law affirms that all citizens have the right to adequate protection from any threat of disaster and to take an active part in the formulation and monitoring of a disaster management policy in their communities. Moreover, the law also imposes hefty criminal sanctions on governments and civil servants for the failure to protect citizens in the event of disaster.

The question remains as to whether Law No. 24/2007 can be effectively referred to in the event of a similar future disaster. The prospect is not very bright. First, no reference was made to Law No. 24/2007 in the unsuccessful attempt to indict government officials who failed to monitor a drilling company who violated economic, social and cultural rights in the mudflow case. Second, the Indonesian National Agency for Disaster Management, which was established under Law No. 24/2007, has never been included in the ongoing management of the mudflow disaster.

The law classifies disasters as natural, non-natural (man-made), or social (riots, civic unrest). This classification of disaster is not helpful toward maintaining the relevance of a human rights-based approach in disaster management, since there is always a human dimension to any disaster. While a natural phenomenon, such as an earthquake, instigates a disaster, it is the human failure that plays a big part in increasing the damage that follows. Irrespective of the causes, the state is responsible for assisting victims to restore their well-being.

In most cases, the practical application of a human rights-based approach to disaster management and environmental protection is still a reactive one, since it can only come to the fore after the cause is “formally established.” Due to the uncertainty regarding the cause of disaster, it is most likely that the state

would withhold the truth about a particular situation.

It is about time that human rights scholars and practitioners start advocating for a more comprehensive understanding of the human rights-based approach in the field of disaster management and environment protection. Failing to take feasible measures that would prevent the occurrence of foreseeable disasters amounts to a violation of the rights enshrined in international human rights instruments and therefore incurs the responsibility of the state under international law.

The ineptitude in mudflow disaster management shows that the Government of Indonesia should make better use of resources available through the National Agency for Disaster Management and remove the ineffective disaster classifications in Law No. 24/2007. ■

How Do NGOs Participate in New Environmental Governance Regimes? The Case Study of Voluntary Certification Institutions

Tamar PATARIDZE, Georgia

OSI Chevening Program 2003-2004, University of Oxford

There are two main aspects of environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that have attracted attention in the fast-growing literature on international environmental affairs: the significant increase in size and number of environmental NGOs, and the growing awareness among scholars that NGOs are integral to the peculiar nature of world environmental politics.

NGOs have various functions within existing global environmental governance regimes, but are increasingly becoming political actors in their own right (Wapner 1995). In addition to pressuring the state to control a firm’s environmental actions, NGOs have invested in alternative governance mechanisms, most noticeably through private, voluntary regimes such as certification programs. These regimes rely less heavily on the state to set and enforce rules. In private voluntary programs, NGOs have become power-sharing partners.

The transformation of NGOs into such powerful actors negotiating directly with firms is connected to one of the most important but vulnerable assets of global corporations: their brands. In 1992, ongoing frustration with domestic and international public policy approaches led many transnational

environmental groups, with the World Wide Fund for Nature at the forefront, to form a coalition named the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC turned to the market by offering an environmental and social “stamp of approval” to forest landowners and foresting companies that practiced sustainable forestry. The FSC granted this approval through its certification process, thus expanding the traditional “stick” approach of a boycott campaign (Cashore et al., 2007).

The creation and development of the FSC was accompanied by a substantial number of marketing campaigns organized by leading environmental NGOs. Those campaigns were built on a various tactics. If in the past their attention was focused on demonstrations near the source of the damage, they now shifted their efforts to more vulnerable retailers at the bottom of the supply chain (Sasser 2001). When Greenpeace, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and other environmental groups saw that protests against MacMillan Bloedel, a leading Vancouver-based timber and paper company, were producing little effect, they took their campaign to Europe, targeting the corporate consumers of MacMillan

Bloedel products. Soon, MacMillan Bloedel announced that it would cease clearcutting and seek certification under FSC standards (Conroy, 2007). Consequently, The Home Depot, the largest home improvement retailer in the world, agreed to stop selling wood from endangered forests and give preference to wood certified under FSC standards.

As Sasser points out, The Home Depot became the “victim” of a market campaign only by virtue of its vulnerable reputation. Timber harvesting companies like MacMillan Bloedel are more difficult targets, partly due to their remoteness from the end consumer. By targeting the branded retailers first, NGOs have produced chain reactions throughout the industry.

“NGOs are increasingly becoming political actors in their own right”

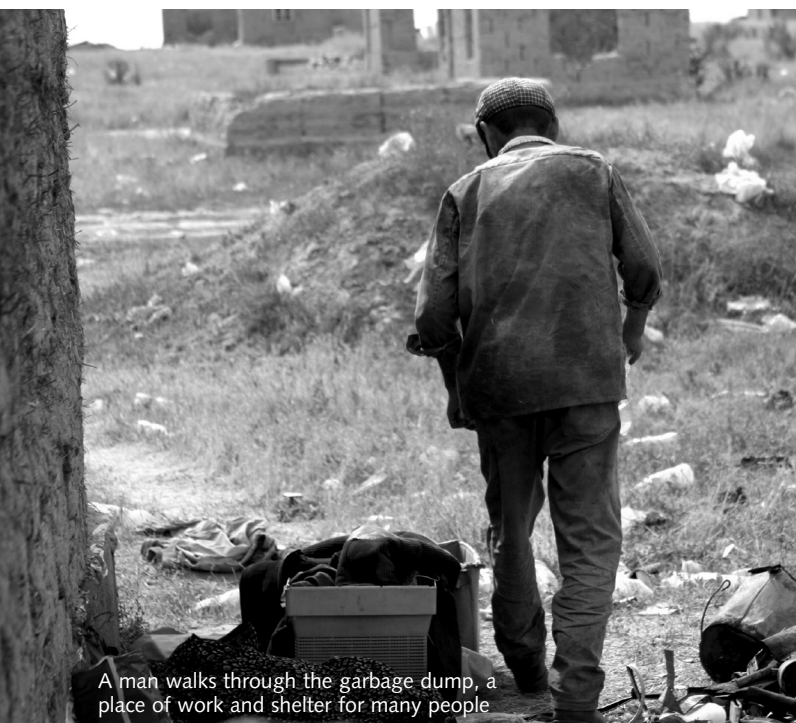
The forestry case shows how NGOs are becoming increasingly sophisticated players in achieving their goals. In this way, NGOs are changing traditional power relationships: rather than going to government and suggesting solutions, NGOs are challenging multinational firms directly and developing solutions independent of government. ■



Kyrgyzstan

A Photographic Insight into Life at the Garbage Dump

PHOTO ESSAY



A man walks through the garbage dump, a place of work and shelter for many people

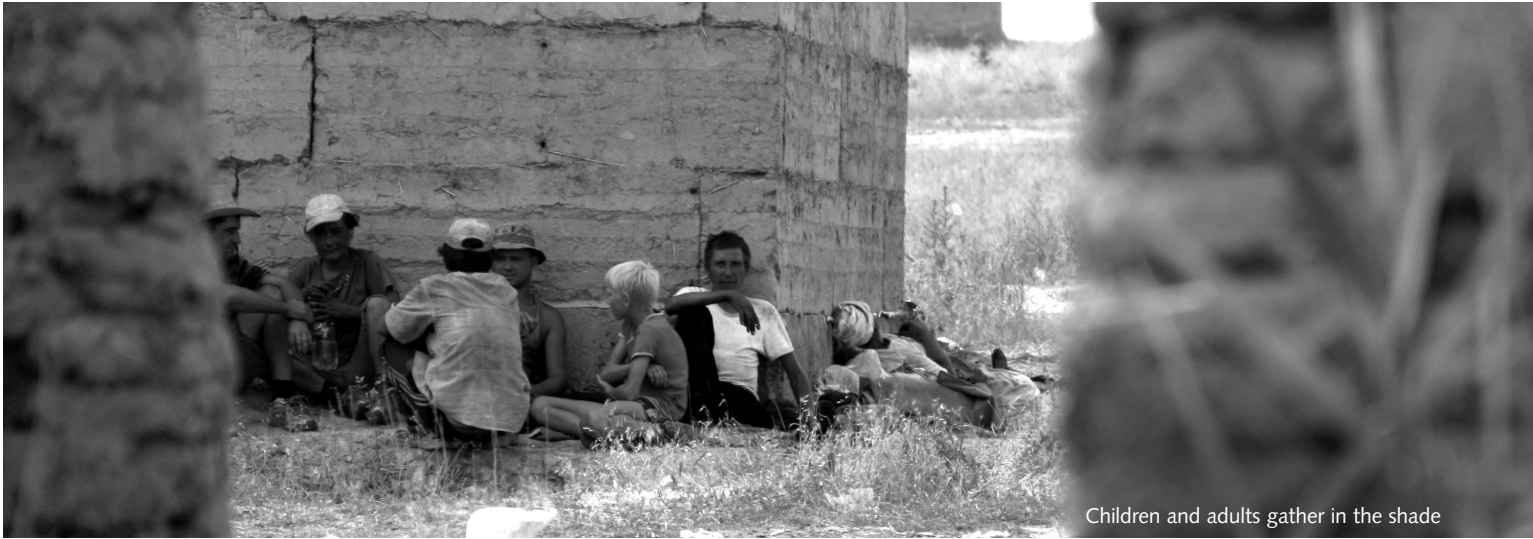
Nail NASRITDINOV, Kyrgyzstan
Social Work Fellowship Program 2008-2010
Washington University in St. Louis

I had always wondered about the circumstances that would force people to inhabit a city dump. In 2007, my brother invited me on a bus tour entitled “Bishkek: City of Contrasts,” that was destined for the dump just north of the city. The tour was organized as part of my brother’s Urban Anthropology class at the American University of Central Asia, where he is a professor.

The first thing that surprised me was the number of people living and working in the garbage. For the 30 minutes we were there, I saw more than 200 people, and this was just a small part of the area. Thousands of crows, themselves natural scavengers, also shared this place.

Another thing that stayed with me was the smell, the never-ending stench. Several of the students felt sick. The smell lingered several hours after I had returned home.

Unfortunately, I didn’t have an opportunity to talk to any of these people due to our tight schedule. I also didn’t have my camera with me to document their lives. That is why, upon returning from St. Louis, where I’d completed my master’s degree in social work, I decided to



Children and adults gather in the shade

visit the dump one more time. This time, I had a chance to speak with one of those living and working in the dump. We'll call him Almaz.

The events which brought Almaz to this place were reported worldwide: the ethnic conflict between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek populations in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. By trade, Almaz was a professional construction worker who had been renovating the house of an affluent Uzbek businessman for the last nine months before he came to the dump.

The fall of the Bakiev government and the subsequent unrest happened when the renovation work was 99 percent complete, and Almaz was scheduled to get his salary. However, on June 12, a crowd of young people came to the house and burnt it to the ground. The businessman was killed, and Almaz was forced to leave Osh and try his luck in Bishkek. But the market for construction workers here was saturated. Ultimately, Almaz ended up at the dump, where he collects cardboard and plastic bottles that he sells for pennies. This money is scarcely even enough for him to feed himself. Almaz also said that other people come to the dump involuntarily, most of them unable to find work.

Nowadays, Kyrgyzstan is experiencing some the hardest times since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The previous government destroyed Kyrgyzstan's economy and social infrastructure and helped fuel two of the country's most persistent and prominent problems: unemployment and ethnic instability. As Almaz's story illustrates, it is vitally important that the new government, headed by President Roza Otunbaeva, prioritize these two issues. ■

Nail NASRITDINOV



Foragers shield their faces against the stench and grime of the garbage

Map courtesy of CIA World Factbook. Boundary representation not necessarily authoritative.



REGIONAL FOCUS

Central Asia and Mongolia

NATIONS IN FLUX

Zoë BROGDEN
Program Coordinator
Open Society Scholarship Programs

For the Open Society Foundations, the five countries of Central Asia and the enormous expanse of Mongolia have served as the heartland of many initiatives. From Scholarships to Public Health, the issues that have needed to be addressed within these countries have been wide-ranging, with the fall of Communist regimes across the region and the painful adaptation to market economies fostering governments ranging from quasi-democracies to autocratic dictatorships.

Focused solely on the region, the Open Society Foundations Central Eurasia Project (CEP) aims to foster sustainable societies from Mongolia to Georgia. Cornelius Graubner, Program Officer for Regional Project Development and a frequent visi-

tor to the region, offers insight into CEP's work, his thoughts on the state of region, and the hardships faced by civil society.

Scholarship Programs (SP): Cornelius, what do you see when you survey the conditions in the region from a grantor's perspective?

CG: Central Asia is certainly a challenging region when it comes to promoting open societies.

Soviet legacies still influence state-society interaction and while all countries have developed significantly in the last 20 years, unfortunately not in a more democratic direction. Part of the issue is that civil society does not work the same way that it does in, say, Eastern Europe or even Russia and the South Caucasus. Many donors have not had much success in fostering a vibrant, nongovernmental community, and many local organiza-

tions lack a significant social base beyond urban, secular, and primarily Russian-speaking communities. This, together with the pushback that we witness from many governments in the region, definitely presents a challenge for our work.

SP: You work on the issue of labor migration. What are some of the biggest challenges to be addressed, and what do you believe are the prospects for the future?

CG: Labor migration will continue to be a factor in post-Soviet space. None of the push-and-pull factors which facilitate seasonal and permanent out-migration, such as a lack of income opportunities, a surge in the youth population in Central Asia, or the demand for cheap and skilled labor in Russia will cease to exist in the medium term.

Migration cannot be controlled, but it needs to be managed if the full potential for sending and receiving countries is to be

realized. One of the biggest challenges is certainly the protection of basic human rights, as many migrants find themselves trapped in situations of forced labor, harassed by the authorities, paying bribes to officials, killed due to unsafe working conditions, or targeted by right-wing radicals.

SP: You also deal with issues surrounding electricity and hydropower transparency. What are the tangible impacts you see for Central Asia, and have you witnessed any particularly successful interventions and funding initiatives?

CG: CEP and Open Society foundations in Central Asia support Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI) groups in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which work to enhance transparency and consumer protection in the electric power sector. Electricity is generated mostly by hydropower, but the rampant crisis has existential effects. It is one thing if you flip on the light switch and the light doesn't come on, but if electric space heaters that many people rely on do not work during winter, the results can be catastrophic. Many in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan believe that their governments not only grossly mismanage the sector, but that certain members of the ruling elite enrich themselves to the detriment of delivery of services and affordability.

Skyrocketing energy prices were one

of the triggers of the April 2010 unrest in Kyrgyzstan that led to the ousting of the Bakiev regime. In terms of impact, we have seen that the work of the EGI groups in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is appreciated by government officials and by major international donors who play an important role in financing many of the huge investments needed in the sector. In Kyrgyzstan, the government recently passed legislation to make the energy sector more transparent and accountable and asked our partners to participate in a monitoring committee. This is, of course, a great success and sets a model that other governments in the region can follow.

SP: What are your hopes for the future of the region, and are you fearful of some regression, especially in light of the current unrest in Kyrgyzstan?

CG: Of course, I would like to see the countries and the citizens of Central Asia prosper and live in peaceful, secure, and democratic societies. However, recent years have seen an increase in autocratic tendencies which threaten these hopes. All five countries are now rated as "Not Free" in Freedom House's annual *Freedom in the World* reports, and Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are regularly listed as the world's worst human rights violators.

SP: Your work takes you to the region often. What are some of the lasting

impressions that remain with you when you leave the area?

CG: Definitely the hospitality: being invited to a communal plate of plov in a small village in southern Kyrgyzstan for no other reason than not being from that village, sitting on a tapshan on a Dushanbe apartment bloc rooftop eating shashlik while the sun is setting and the heat of day subsides, or sleeping in yurta on the shores of Song Kul after being surprised by a snowstorm in August. The beautiful mountain and desert landscapes. And last, but certainly not least: the Dushanbe-Khorog flight. ■

For more information on the Central Eurasia Project, visit: www.soros.org/initiatives/cep



Cornelius GRAUBNER

The Changing Perception of National Identity in Mongolia

MANDUUL Altangerel, Mongolia
OSI Chevening Program 2009-2010, University of Warwick

National identity was always the last but essential piece in the jigsaw puzzle of many of my cross-cultural relationships. Yet, I had not attached much importance to analyzing my Mongolian national identity until I lived away from home.

The concrete idea of "home" slowly blurred the longer I stayed abroad. I reached a point where I started to view Mongolian national identity not only through the common images of a nomadic civilization with a former socialist history or with a focus on its current economic status, but, rather, through an even deeper and wider view that allowed me to look at my home in terms of social thought, aspirations, trends, and unity—all without blurring my

objectivity with fervent national pride. These are factors of development that Mongolia, in transitioning from a politically socialist society and centrally-planned economy to a democracy with a free market economy, has not had time to nurture as much as it would have liked in the past two decades.

In any given society, it is only natural that condemnation and rejection of the previous social ideals will follow drastic reforms or revolution. Thus, during the hardships of transition, society experiences sudden nationalistic aspirations.

Following the declaration of a republic in 1924 and the subsequent 70 years of socialism, the People's Republic of Mongolia denounced the monarchy and its history and achievements. The same thing can be said to have occurred when the secular Turkish Republic rejected its Ottoman heritage in its attempts to shake off its religious and cultural vestiges.

Remarkable social transformations of divergent national identity were experienced after the disintegration of the Socialist Bloc.

In the case of Mongolia, an obsession with the past did not start until its transition to a market economy following the end of the Cold War. Since then, Mongolia has experienced shifts in social identification. Firstly, fresh into a new democracy, the social obsession with Mongolia's past as a near global power was spurred by the comparatively small hardships in dealing with the socialist regime. However peaceful and smooth the transition might have been, it was clearly a phase in which there was little time for any objective thinking. The way this new national identity was manifested shows

“Names, themes, legends, and traditions from the Mongol Empire are featured in institutions, events, products, and services”

how extreme the perception was: names, themes, legends, and traditions from the Mongol Empire were featured in both state and privately-owned institutions, events, products, and services. Newborn babies and alcoholic beverages alike were named after kings, queens, and warriors. Even organizational structures took on a distinct flavor. Some private colleges, for instance, adopted an ancient army organizational structure for classes, arranging classes in groups of ten (warriors, apparently).

The degree to which this denunciation of the recent past and idealization of an older history is supported varies from country to country. In Mongolia, it would seem that the cohesion of certain dynamics in society led to a cooling of this craze for the “Empire” and urged a shift back to socialism. There have been sporadic surges in social attitudes rebuking the idealistic “Empire” and redeeming the “good old days” of the socialist past. This tendency to shift from perceiving and celebrating the past in terms of either empire

or socialism was seen during the parliamentary and presidential elections of 1992 to 2005, in which the country swayed from one force to the other in hopes of discovering the antidote to the shocks induced by the transitional economy.

The most recent wave of historical identity and recognition that Mongolia seems to be undergoing is the most crucial one. As social order is more or less established in society, the community as a whole now looks to move onto more immediate concerns. In so doing, it has gradually come to acknowledge and accept its former identities—both the “Empire” and the “Socialist”—while simultaneously extinguishing the idealistic craze. This can be seen from the growing enthusiasm for traditional values, culture, and identity, which is especially strong among younger generations who previously rejected such affiliations with the past.

This recognition has a progressive attitude: the community is learning to simultaneously identify itself through traditional identities, multiple as they may be, and with it, to proceed in its endeavors to keep pace with the rest of the world. Entertainment, including movies and music, reflect a Mongol background and increasingly view history from an objective, tolerant point of view. The craze over traditions and customs has subsided and been replaced with calm acceptance. Yet another observation which struck me as exceptional is that the society possesses no dissonance in terms of ethnicity, nationality, or origins. To my mind, this may be due to the traditional intermingling of tribes and ethnic groups which had minimal cultural exposure with

“The community is learning simultaneously to identify itself through traditional identities, and to keep pace with the rest of the world”

other nations. Society as a whole maintained a unified feeling of solidarity without strong feelings of “subidentities.”

It is striking to observe a gradual, general sense of optimism in Mongolia. Economic indications (which have turned for the better and shown great potential) aside, Mongolian society's outlook on its current situation and future prospects is noticeably positive. Historical identity has gradually been accepted in the absence of strong feelings of ethnic subidentities, and this provides an important base for a healthy social outlook. To enjoy the ideals of open society, democracy, and liberty through learning to identify and cater to one's own interests as individuals can, to my mind, serve as a greater indication of development than any economic factor. ■



The Festival of Harvest in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
photo: Askarbek MAMBETALIEV

Central Asia in U.S. Cinema: How a Russian TV Sketch Show Provides a Case Study for Critical Geopolitical Analysis

Aijan SHARSHENOVA

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There are two recent periods of relatively intensive research on Central Asia. The collapse of the USSR launched the first wave of publications about post-Soviet Central Asia. The nature of this research reflected general concerns about the newly-established states, including nationalism studies, the adjustment of local command economies to the free market, and the transition from authoritarianism to democracy. The second wave concentrated on security issues, such as the role of Central Asia in the War on Terror, instability and the threat of religious extremism, and energy supplies and transportation.

Both research periods apply a realist approach to the region and miss a critical understanding of the policies applied to Central Asia.

My research shifts from the dominantly positivist nature of research on Central Asia and expands the application of critical theory to Central Asian studies. It is based on my master's dissertation, now a summary of my PhD research proposal, which attempts to analyze how U.S. and Russian societies at the grassroots level perceive and write the Central Asian region into their global cognitive maps.

Unlike policymakers, who see the region in terms of state-level relations, ordinary Russians tend to view Central Asia through the lens of human interaction. Soviet social engineering and a long standing coexistence of nations within the Soviet state resulted in the creation of a large Soviet community where numerous ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups were tightly interwoven (Glenn 1999). These groups shared common identity and viewed each other as "nashi" (ours). This tendency remained strong after the disintegration of the USSR. However, this shared identity gave way to an ethnic-based identity.

The change in popular perception is characterized by increasing disinterest

toward Central Asia and its people. Russian sociologists note increasing "white spots," or a disinterest among Russian citizens toward events in Central Asia. Researchers also note that the history books used in schools and universities skip large periods of Central Asian history, provide an impersonal account of events, and ignore the cultural achievements of Central Asian people.

Most ordinary Russians base their perception of Central Asia on economic migrants. According to a sociological analysis by Gudakov in 1995, the scale of negative attitudes toward migrants rose significantly since the collapse of the USSR. While in 1990 there was a more or less neutral opinion towards migrants, in 2002, 58 percent of those questioned expressed negative views. An overwhelming majority of respondents could not give a rational explanation for their attitudes, apart from a stereotypical generalization that migrants are "others" (Gudkov 2005).

A less formal manifestation of the inclusion and exclusion duality can be also found in popular culture. Here, *Nasha Russia* (Our Russia), a sketch TV program broadcast on the TNT TV channel, represents a curious case for analysis.

As a sketch program, it addresses urgent social issues, such as corruption in schools, gay rights in Russian provinces, and the problem of migrant workers. The migrant worker phenomenon is embodied by two migrant workers from Tajikistan. Their images reflect wide-spread popular stereotypes about Central Asian migrants. Firstly, Ravshan and Jamshud are employed in construction, typical migrant work, under the supervision of a local foreman. They cannot speak Russian properly and are unable to work to deadlines without faults, much to the foreman's irritation.

It is interesting to note the paradox of the show's title and content. *Nasha Russia* suggests that all characters belong to

the notion of "Our Russia." However, the short prologue to Ravshan and Jamshud introduces them as "guests of our capital" (see *Nasha Russia* 2006-2009). Here, one confronts the dualism of inclusion and exclusion. Ravshan and Jamshud are included in "our" Russia, but this inclusion is temporary.

For U.S. citizens who have had scarce information and virtually no interaction with Central Asia, the former Soviet republics

"Ordinary Russians tend to view Central Asia through the lens of human interaction"

are "a black hole of ignorance for almost all Americans" (Hooson in Blouet 2005). In this regard, it would be appropriate to question what fills this "black hole" at the grassroots level. As some researchers suggest, popular culture is formed by the entertainment industry. Therefore, I would like to promote cinema as a valid medium for addressing Central Asia.

Some films contain minor details associated with the region, with Hollywood films such as *The World is Not Enough* (1999), in which an attempt is made to steal a nuclear bomb from Kazakhstan, to *War, Inc.* (2008), which features a fictional Central Asian country, Turaqistan, freed by U.S. troops during a military campaign. Such images contain no factual information and leave the impression that Central Asia is a dangerous place where disorder and chaos produce tyrants and terrorists.

Mass culture and entertainment hold implications for critical geopolitics. The evolution of the perception of Central Asia in Russia and the United States is based on popular culture. Thus, the shadows of Central Asia and direct references to the region in Hollywood concoct the impression that Central Asia is a dangerous and rather oriental place, meanwhile Russian popular culture reflects an inclusion and alienation discourse revolving around binaries of "ours" and "others." ■

Quo Vadis, Bologna Process? Central Asia and Beyond

Sonia PAVLENKO

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In March 2010, 46 higher education ministers from countries participating in the Bologna Process met in Budapest and Vienna, and welcomed a new member: Kazakhstan.

Traditionally, a country could join the process by ratifying the European Cultural Convention, which aimed to foster and promote the idea of European culture. However, as Anne Corbett points out, the Bologna Process relied on the Council of Europe's definition of signatories to its Cultural Convention in order to exclude those outside the continent, such as Israel, North Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan, or Kosovo. Corbett further argues that the process is at a stage where there is a greater demand from nonmembers for membership, or at least a dialogue. This demand culminated in Kazakhstan's acceptance less than a week after ratifying the European Cultural Convention.

This raises the question of how far the Bologna Process should go. The process started as a European objective to create a European Higher Education Area by 2010. The creation of a European space was critical, encapsulated by phrases such as "the European dimension" of higher education. However, this phrase seems to have been absent from contemporary debates on the process, even though one can still see many of the components that make up the initial

"The Bologna Process has lost its initial borders, and there is a trend toward a global dimension"

concept, such as the mobility of students and staff.

Countries such as Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Turkey have also joined the Bologna Process. The Russian education system, owing much to its Soviet past, was far from what the process demanded. Nevertheless, starting in October 2007, Russia implemented a series of measures overwriting a two-tier degree system on the older, compact study path. The Georgian system of higher education underwent a similar process in 2005.

It is obvious that the Bologna Process has lost its initial borders, and there is a clearly identifiable trend toward a global dimension. Kazakhstan, despite arguing its "Europeanness" at the Magna Charta Ceremonies in 2009, is not situated in what is geographically understood to be Europe. In fact, the official Kazakh government webpage presents the country as being in Central Asia, deep within the Asian continent.

On a different note, it is clear that by joining the Bologna Process, Kazakhstan benefits in terms of raising the quality and competitiveness of its higher education system. Other benefits include the increased mobility of students and

academics between Kazakhstan and other Bologna Process countries; access to the European Higher Education Area, which provides a broad, high-quality and advanced knowledge base; and to the European Research Area, including access to cutting-edge research.

Many other nations have already expressed an open interest in the process. For instance, Australia, the United States, and China are among those who not only passively observe, but partake in active dialogue with members. Specific institutions for this dialogue have also been created, such as the World Education Services in the United States, as well as organized conferences where debate can occur on the relationship between countries such as Australia in the Bologna Process.

Bearing in mind all of the above, one cannot help but wonder if any limits or borders remain in the Bologna Process. How does the European Cultural Convention interact with those countries that present themselves as being "Central Asian"? Kazakhstan's new status as member of the process restates questions on where Europe really ends and how far the Bologna Process should go. ■

This article was written in collaboration with Cristina Bojan, Senior Lecturer at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. For more information on the Bologna Process visit: www.ehea.info/

Tajik girl in Vahdat district, Tajikistan
photo: Dilya ZOIROVA



The Child Rights Movement in Mongolia

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Based on the evidence from the child rights movement in Mongolia, this article examines to what extent and how the mobilization of human resources contributed to the expansion of social networks. Such networks were essential for Mongolian child rights activists to succeed, whilst campaigning for an amendment to the Law on Education based on the principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), an international standard for the rights of children.

The child rights movement is a social movement that evolved into a global movement after the formation of the United

Nations in the 1940s. The CRC mandates that all member states protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, oppression, and discrimination. This mandate played a key role in the development of child rights movements that aimed to change societal norms and values that tolerate harmful behavior toward children. However, some members, including Mongolia, have been slow in fulfilling their responsibilities to take preventive measures and provide protection and care for children who experience maltreatment.

The website of the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN), a leading international agency in global child rights movements, provides information on collective actions taken by activists worldwide. Different countries deploy different resources according to their economic, social, and political conditions. Here, countries with limited economic resources tend to mobilize human resources more than material resources. The Mongolian case represents this tendency.

Mongolia signed the CRC in 1990, and local and international nongovernmental organizations became part of the global movement for children's rights. Challenged by limited support from the Mongolian state, children's rights activists learned how to mobilize human resources to promote the movement. In 2006, after two years of organized efforts, the Law on Education was amended with a new provision to ban corporal punishment in schools. The amended law also prohibited the corrupt practice of imposing illegal school fees and required the specific needs of children with disabilities to be considered in the state budget for schools, as well as to allocate equal funds for non-formal education targeting the most marginalized children. Social networking actions coordinated by the Education and Child Rights Alliance, consisted of child rights, education, and legal reform movements in Mongolia.

At the beginning of the campaign, the

leadership skills of Olonchimeg Dorjpurev, in her role at Save the Children UK in Mongolia, played a key role in coordinating with the leaders of four different groups to form a social network to ban corporal punishment against children. Olonchimeg's strategy was to expand social networks for the rights of children by targeting leaders specializing in education, legal reform, women's and child rights who then shared their best practices and mobilized resources on behalf of the campaign.

Children's rights groups designed radio and TV programs on nonviolent discipline

“Members including Mongolia have been slow in fulfilling their responsibilities”

methods, while the legal reform networks cooperated by lobbying policymakers. Teachers and school social workers initiated nationwide consultations among teachers and children. During these consultations, children expressed their concerns about school violence and bullying, abuse from teachers and school staff, and economic pressure from school administrators and teachers. Students even offered ways of tackling these issues themselves.

Starting with this advocacy campaign, the children's rights movement has expanded, involving more organizations to ban corporal punishment in all settings and to develop a national child protection system. Children have played an important role in the movement by forming their networks.

The child rights movement in Mongolia has demonstrated that human resources coordinated and “aggregated” by integrated networks can produce more impact toward achieving collective action. The sum is definitely greater than its parts. ■

For more information, see www.childforchild.mn or childforchild.blogspot.com/ in English for more information on the campaign on developing a national child protection system.



Kazakhstan's Perspective in Dealing with HIV and AIDS and Harm Reduction

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This paper is largely based on the information included in the alternative report to the UN ESCR Committee (prepared by the International Harm Reduction Association).

In March 2010, I was asked by the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) to help develop an alternative report for the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR Committee) which reviewed Kazakhstan's report on economic, social, and cultural rights. In this paper, I examine the problems relating to HIV and AIDS and harm reduction in Kazakh prisons, as a contribution to the general debate around Kazakhstan's human rights situation relative to disadvantaged groups.

In 2010, Kazakhstan engaged in a number of significant diplomatic and policy developments. It took the OSCE chairmanship and was examined by a number of UN Human Rights institutions, including the Universal Periodic Review and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. All bodies have made recommendations, calling on Kazakhstan to bring its human rights practices in line with international human rights standards.

Infectious diseases are widespread in Kazakhstan. Official records indicate that approximately 12,801 people live with HIV in Kazakhstan (62 per 100,000 people). The epidemic is concentrated largely among vulnerable populations, such as intravenous drug users and prisoners. Kazakhstan has the largest number of injecting drug users in Central Asia (100,000–160,000), with injecting drug use currently the primary driver of the HIV epidemic, accounting for 73 percent of registered cases. Estimates suggest that approximately 9.2 percent of people who inject drugs

in Kazakhstan are living with HIV.

The situation in Kazakh prisons is even worse. Prisoners have a very high risk of HIV infection through unsafe injecting practices. The government does not allow needle and syringe exchange programs or opioid substitution therapy.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture noted that “the number of drug users among detainees was fairly high. They were isolated upon arrival and provided with some medical treatment, but no substitution therapy as such” (UNHRC, 2009). The report further raised concerns about the lack of needle and syringe exchange in prisons and recommended that harm-reduction programs be initiated.

International law provides rights for persons in detention except insofar as their limitation by the fact of incarceration. This includes the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Moreover, it is a fundamental right that people in prisons have access to equivalent health services and care as persons outside prisons, and that denial of such services is not a necessary or justified aspect of incarceration.

According to Kazakh legislation, prisoners are subject to compulsory HIV testing upon admission and six months after admission, a practice explicitly rejected as being an unethical and ineffective HIV policy by the World Health Organization.

Malpractice is widespread in Kazakh prisons with regard to infectious diseases. Prisoners are obliged to undertake compulsory HIV testing, and access to HIV antiretroviral treatment is limited. Persons arrested for drug crimes are usually sent to prison, and no possibility is provided in the legislation for court-ordered drug dependence treatment as

an alternative to imprisonment.

Indeed, although harm reduction is a stated priority in Kazakhstan's National AIDS Program for 2006-2010, which includes support for needle and syringe programs, measures for HIV prevention remain inadequate and reach only a minority of people in need.

A number of discrepancies exist in Kazakhstan's policy regarding the treatment of infectious diseases and drug dependence. All three UN human rights bodies reviewing the human rights situation encouraged the Kazakh government to take relevant preventative and protective measures. At the same time, Kazakhstan has received recommendations to rectify its discriminatory legislation and policy, especially against drug users.

I believe that there is now significant momentum—at both the local and international levels—regarding Kazakhstan's leadership in Central Asia and its OSCE chairmanship, which will prompt the government to show its adherence to the values of the OSCE by fulfilling its human rights obligations. Indeed, in my research, my experience working with Kazakh civil society members exceeded my expectations, and I was overwhelmed by the level of civil society engagement.

However, much remains to be done. The recent 2010 AIDS Conference in Vienna highlighted once more the shortcomings of Kazakhstan. Civil society and international partners should act progressively in order to influence the government to alter its policy and practice toward drug users and to uphold its obligations before its own people and international society. ■

Eka works for the IHRA, focusing on Central Asia, with a special focus on Kazakhstan. For more information, visit: www.ihra.net/
Eka would like to thank Rick Lines, Damon Barret, and Mary Murphy at Penal Reform International for their support and encouragement in her work.



Sunrise in Ulanbaatar, Mongolia
photo: Matthew WILSON

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Academic Showcase

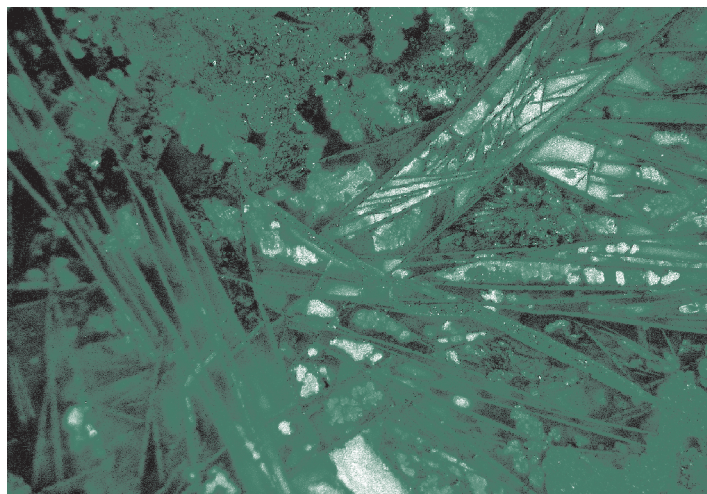
On Revolutions in Humankind: the Origins of Metallurgy

Miljana RADIVOJEVIĆ, Serbia
Global Supplementary Grants Program 2008-2010

The origins of metallurgy in Eurasia are contentious. The earliest invention of pyrometallurgical processes, its timing and location, is one of the most eagerly argued topics in prehistoric archaeology. The introduction of metallurgy to prehistoric communities has been recognized as a major technological breakthrough and an important chronological backbone for the periodisation of later prehistory worldwide. Also, it shaped the environment by helping accelerate forest clearance, foster agriculture, and increase settlement sizes and population growth. It was also one of the factors which affected the development of hierarchical society.

These ideas have been particularly influential in the work of the scholarship of the mid-20th century, which stressed the role of metallurgy in the emergence of complex societies, as well as its single origin in the Near East. Nevertheless, evidence of the earliest metal smelting is still missing, which fuels debate among advocates of the single and multiple or independent origins of metallurgy across Eurasia.

The recent excavations in Belovode, a Vinča culture site in eastern Serbia, yielded 7000 year old remains of archaeometallurgical activities, which makes them the earliest documented evidence to date. Pieces of technological waste from copper production: slag,



The Academic Showcase section is a new addition to *Scholar Forum* which gives Open Society Scholarship Programs' scholars and alumni the chance to display their academic research, abstracts and thoughts to the editor on any topic currently under research. The articles below illustrate a range of thoughts and styles, from PhD research on metallurgy to an introduction on post-war developments in Tajikistan. More details on the requirements for the next edition can be found on page 26.

and batches of ores, malachite beads, droplets of once molten copper metal and a copper metal ingot were studied initially as part of my MSc project. Encouraged by this research, I continued it as a PhD project, with the aim to look into the technology of the earliest evidence for metal extraction in the world to date. The research methodology is based on the application of material science in archaeology, which helps reconstruct technological processes that produced metal artifacts and various debris.

Chemical, structural, and provenance analyses of copper slag, archaeological and geological minerals, a copper metal droplet, a copper ingot, and malachite beads showed the consistency of metal smelting activities in Belovode throughout 400 years of occupation, starting in 5000 BC. The microstructure of copper slag samples revealed copper metal phase and various oxides and silicates embedded in a glassy matrix of siliceous slag, which indicates primary production, namely the metal extraction from the ores, at the site. The volume of all inclusions suggested working temperatures around 1100 °C, which is the melting point of copper. These temperatures were not comparable with any other high-temperature industry at that time (such as pottery), and reflect the exceptional skills that Vinča culture metallurgists had developed. The most striking feature of the provenance analysis data is the variety of copper sources exploited by Belovode inhabitants: the bead mineral, probably selected for its visual quality, is indicated to come from one source in eastern Serbia, while the ore minerals for smelting originate from a different source. Given the strong indication that selection, mining and manipulation of copper minerals were based on their particular qualities, it is assumed that the Belovode craftsmen were well aware of the material properties these minerals bore.

Within the larger context of metallurgy in the region, massive copper implements circulated in the Balkans throughout the 5th millennium BC, amounting to 4300 archaeologically recorded objects. This hyper-production is better understood once compared with finds from the same period in Anatolia, which do not

A microscopic section of copper slag discovered in Belovode, product of the earliest metal extraction to date.
photo: Miljana RADIVOJEVIC

exceed 300 artifacts. Presently, the evidence for copper smelting in Belovode is unique for the beginning of the 5th millennium BC. Although it does not correspond with dozens of artifacts found in the Balkans, it indicates that there was local production and the existence of specialist skills, which were possibly further disseminated and practiced throughout the region.

The wider significance of this project is reflected in the contribution it makes to the debate on the origins of metallurgy, indicating that at approximately the same time as in the Near East and possibly before, European prehistoric cultures knew of these skills and practiced metallurgy in their settlements. This statement clearly advocates the multiple origins of metallurgical inventions, and sets an emphasis on different, independent routes in accessing these skills. Such results also place Belovode and the Vinča culture into a network of multiple resource exploitation and potentially multiple consumers' choice in the region. The scope of the potential trade and exchange of metal

objects in the region is one of the tasks for ongoing PhD research. To this, I have also included archaeometallurgical assemblages from other Vinča culture sites, which will help me look into metallurgical practices across the Vinča culture and hypothesize on further transmission of skills and knowledge to other European cultures.

This research has gained significant media attention in both Serbia and UK, which helped promotion of the wider archaeological project I am involved with as well as being featured in the March 2010 edition of the *BBC History* magazine and in the July 2010 edition of *ScienceNews*. It gave me the opportunity to form an international team of experts around this topic and the site of Belovode in particular, and strengthen the project profile to gain prospective international funding for extensive field research at this very important site. ■

Miljana is a PhD student at University College London

Abstract: State and Civil Society Relations and Post-Civil War Reconstruction and Development in Tajikistan

Gulandom SHARIFOVA, Tajikistan
OSI Chevening University of York 2007-2008

This study aims to unravel the dynamics of the relationship between state authorities and civil society organizations in Tajikistan since the country's independence in 1991. The shift in global geopolitical dynamics brought by the new millennium resulted in the U.S.-led coalition's invasion of Afghanistan, creating favorable conditions for civil society institutions and independent media to emerge and flourish throughout Central Asia. Because civil society organizations were seen as the common catalyst for the chain of "color revolutions" in the post-Soviet bloc, state authorities in Tajikistan perceived civil society as a threat to their power. The authorities responded by trying to re-establish control over "democracy building," an exercise previously led by international, non governmental organizations.

The work first conceptualizes the relationship between the state and civil society in a post-conflict reconstruction and development context. It discusses the challenges facing stakeholders in post-conflict reconstruction and development and proposes a definition of state and civil society before it unfolds historical development theories.

Analysing the phases of the post-war recovery activity, it stresses the role and duties of main actors in emergency relief, reconstruction, and development.

Secondly, the work explores the principal case study—the post-civil war reconstruction of Tajikistan (1997-2000). After providing the background to the conflict, it assesses the key reconstruction initiatives undertaken predominantly by civil society in the aftermath of the conflict and highlights the role the state had in those activities. It also presents illustrative examples of the dynamics of civil society development in other post-Soviet countries as they moved from authoritarianism to democracy.

Discussing the most progressive period of the state-civil society reconstruction and development activities in Tajikistan substantiated by the regional dynamics and the start of the antiterrorist operation in Afghanistan, the work looks at the danger that the close cooperation between the state and international actors presented to the legitimate government by strengthening the position of civil society. It argues that the boost of an independent media in late 2004 generated a real threat to state authority.

The work examines the impact of key factors such as regional dynamics to restrictive changes to the domestic law on the cooperation between the state and civil society institutions for development purposes. In this respect, the study highlights the strengths and weaknesses of Tajikistan's developing civil society and confirms the challenges faced by the stakeholders in the course of accomplishing reconstruction agenda.

The study will argue that the state-civil society relationship in Tajikistan has developed in three stages: conflict and post conflict (1992-2000), reconstruction (2001-2004), and development (2005-2007). By breaking this process down into three phases, the work stresses some of the key factors impinging on the activities of the main reconstruction actors and explores the implications of the civil war in the early 1990s for relations between the state and civil society.

In conclusion, the work helps to identify the challenges faced by civil society in Tajikistan. By using secondary case studies, the work also gives a sense of where Tajikistan stands in terms of development in the world and classifies structural trends that are likely to lead the country into a truly democratic direction in the future. ■

Gulandom is currently working at the Consultancy Services Unit of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London

Fiction

The Deal

Bozhil HRISTOV, Bulgaria
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The cart with the bony horse creaked and came to a halt before the unimaginative, grey-façade building of the kindergarten. The front was overgrown with trees and shrubs, hiding the mass-produced architecture of Socialist realism which was, perhaps, a little too real. The administrator looked out of the window of her office suspiciously. “He’d come after all,” she thought.

She’d had her doubts that he would actually turn up from the very start, when she had promised him the old bed frames in return for cleaning the basement. After what was probably the first renovation the kindergarten had seen for a couple of decades, a heap of old iron bed-frames had been left lying on the ground floor balcony. Having faithfully served their purpose of giving shelter to the sweet dreams of roughly 20 generations of young innocents from the local Roma neighborhood, they were now ready to be thrown away. Those antique pieces of furniture hadn’t escaped Zaro’s keen eyes when he had entered the kindergarten to enrol his little daughter and pay the tuition. Immediately, he asked the administrator to allow him to take the bed frames, since they were about to be thrown out, anyway. She had agreed, but only on the condition that he cleaned the basement.

When the renovations came to an end three months earlier, the final cleaning of the basement had fallen to Old Ivan. He was the caretaker and bodyguard whose task was to chase down the raucous youngsters who were prevented by the impulses of early childhood from staying in the same place for more than four minutes. Well, but he’s so old, already retired, the administrator thought to herself, and he’s got a bad foot; she couldn’t bring herself to make him work so hard. By getting rid of the bed frames she would be killing two birds with one stone. Practical thinking was the foremost quality in her job description, as she had to work miracles to provide for the wards of the underfunded institution she had been serving for some time. “If only the two birds could materialize by some arcane alchemical reaction, they would be just enough for the lunch meal ...”

At that moment, Zaro’s gaze was also somewhat vacant because his mind had wandered in the direction of the ground floor balcony; he could already see the iron weighing down the scales in the scrap yard. That was income after all... For years, Zaro had earned a living in this way—he would find something and sell it in the scrap yard, or he would work on some construction site for the summer. He was also known in the ubiquitous rubbish collection company, where he worked from time to time to set aside something for his large family.

His agile wife got down from the cart, too—maybe by virtue of her unemployment or feelings of matrimonial devotion, she had

decided to help her husband clean the rubbish from the basement. The two of them dutifully reported to the administrator. Rarely had she seen such a devoted couple. Like a real gentleman, Zaro had all sorts of choice pet names for the woman of his heart—“sugar,” “honey” and other such sweet expressions. And what attachment and dedication glowed in his eyes! Every now and then, the loving husband looked at his wife with a sheepish, childish naïve smile, seeking her approval; no matter whether his gaze was met with a reluctant smile or an abrupt reproach, his eyes filled with warm,

“For years, Zaro had earned a living in this way—he would find something and sell it in the scrap yard, or he would work on some construction site for the summer”

boundless happiness. The administrator began giving instructions:

“The basement’s open. You’re to take out all the rubbish lying on the shelves and on the ground. The floor also needs sweeping and washing. And be careful that you don’t scratch the paint on the walls while you’re carrying things out, because God knows when they’ll be repainted again!”

What followed was addressed not so much to the couple as to Old Ivan, who was proudly keeping guard: “Make sure you don’t open the locked door to the small basement room. I warn you, because I’m responsible for its contents. All the pots and pans.”

The work was in full swing. Zaro and his wife were cleaning the basement, taking out all the unnecessary items. Words of encouragement kept coming from the subterranean depths. Hearing them warmed the administrator’s heart, but she quickly came to her senses and called Old Ivan “I’m telling you again, keep an eye on them! If they break into the locked room to get at the pots, we’ll be in deep trouble!” ■

Bozhil is currently completing the final year of his PhD studies at the University of Oxford, where he also teaches grammar and general linguistics at the undergraduate level

“The Deal” is the first in a two part instalment of fictional writing from Bozhil. Inspired by Sofia and the stereotypes that pervade relations between Bulgarians and the city’s Roma minority, Bozhil’s story exposes this sense of “otherness” and evokes a confrontation with its attendant prejudices.

Alumni Updates

The Oxbridge Society in Georgia

Tamar PATARIDZE, (OSI/Chevening University of Oxford Scheme) is a consultant in technical assistance to the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and a key player in the creation of the newly established Oxbridge Society in Georgia. The organization aims to bring together Georgian alumni from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for networking, public lectures, as well as engaging in mentoring and advising those applying for university. The Oxbridge Society also aims to foster debate among Georgian youth, using the best practice from the universities' student unions. In order to bolster the work of the society, the group would like to hear from those in Georgia and beyond. For more information on the society, please join the Facebook Page: Oxbridge Society in Georgia, or contact Tamar at tamar.pataridze@gmail.com.

Indonesian Essex Human Rights Alumni Association (IEHR)

With the active input of nine OSI Chevening University of Essex alumni from Indonesia, alumni working in the fields of human rights issues, advocacy, and litigation have joined forces to establish an association which aims to facilitate networking links and leverage the experience and research of returning grantees. Amongst other activities, the IEHR aims to stimulate research for policy promotion and academic dissemination; aid in capacity building through training sessions and conferences for the human rights scholars, academics, organizations and policy makers and to develop a database of human rights materials. For more information on the IEHR, please contact Haris Azhar at haris_azhar@yahoo.com.

CNOUS-OSI Program

2008

Elvira KHAKIMOVA (Kazakhstan) is a PhD student at IMT Institute for Advanced Studies Lucca studying Cultural Heritage. Email: hakimova_elvira@yahoo.fr

DAAD-OSI Program

2002

Artak YENGOYAN (Humboldt University of Berlin, Armenia) is head of the Organizational and Compliance Department at the ProCredit Bank, Armenia, and a lecturer in economics at Yerevan State University. E-mail: scartyen@yahoo.com

2003

Zaur GASIMOV (Azerbaijan) earned his PhD at the University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, and is currently a research fellow at the Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz.

Tornike GURULI (TU Chemnitz, Georgia) is the head of marketing, JSC Wissol Petroleum, Georgia and an International Trainer for Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg, a program of the Bosch Foundation. Tornike was also a trainer for a host of international organizations, including USAID and UNDP on corporate and journalistic communication and project management. Email: guruli@hotmail.com

Tamara TONOYAN (Armenia) is an associate professor of economics at the Department of Public Health of the National Institute of Health and vice chairperson of the Association of Women Scientists of Armenia. Dr. Tonoyan has received many awards for her research on health policy and inequality. Email: ttonoyan@yahoo.com

2005

Shalva BESHIA (University of Trier, Georgia) is currently employed at the Commerzbank AG, Frankfurt, and works on market risk management.

Karen GRIGORYAN (University of Bochum, Armenia) is head of the Department of Educational Reforms and International Relations at the Armenian State University of Economics and associate professor at the Department of Macroeconomics. Dr. Grigoryan has published several research articles and papers on Armenia. Email: karengri@rambler.ru

2006

Serik DOSSAYEV (University of Trier, Kazakhstan) is deputy director of Executive Consulting LLP (www.execon.kz) as well as a

lecturer at the International Business School Almaty and a business coach specializing in the field of strategy. Serik is a member of the YES Alumni Association, which looks at sustainable development.

Georgian Scholarship for Educational Professionals Harvard University

2006

Natia ANDGULADZE is an assistant professor and PhD student at Ilia State University teaching research methods in education, while helping to build a new graduate program in education leadership and management. Prior to her scholarship, Natia worked on education reform projects in the Adjara Autonomous Republic. Email: natia_andguladze@yahoo.com

2007

Thea SIPRASHVILI is the deputy head of the Forestry Agency, responsible for development and strategic planning at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.

George ZEDGINIDZE is the deputy minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.

2008

Tea GERGEDAVA is head of the Department of Foreign Relations at Tbilisi State University. Email: tea.gergedava@gmail.com

Ana JANELIDZE works in the area of preschool education as a project manager in Georgia.

Global Supplementary Grants Program

2008

Ariunaa LKHAGVADORJ (University of Potsdam, Mongolia) is currently chair of economics and financial management at the Academy of Management, Mongolia. In 2010, Ariunaa completed her PhD at Potsdam University, Germany, on "Fiscal Federalism and Decentralization in Mongolia." Email: lha66@hotmail.com

Rozeta KAROVA (Macedonia) has recently completed her third year of PhD studies at the European University Institute, Italy, researching the liberalization of the electricity markets in Southeast Europe. Rozeta's research interests include the establishment of the regional electricity market in Southeast Europe within the framework of the Energy Community.

2010

Maia CHANKSELIANI (Georgia) earned her MA in education at Harvard through the Georgian Education Program and is currently pursuing a PhD in education at the University of Cambridge, examining location as a factor of disadvantage for applicants to the first cycle of academic higher education in Georgia, with a special focus on access experiences of the rural poor. Email: maia_chankseliani@post.harvard.edu

Faculty Development Fellowship Program

2004

Leila KIKNADZE (University of Wyoming, Georgia) is an associate professor at the University of Georgia in the Faculty of Humanities, teaching on epoch and religion and societal models and the thinking patterns of Muslims. Leila is currently taking part in the Open Society Foundations and Higher Education Support Program ReSET Project on the "Conception of 'Eternal Capitals'—from Ancient Cosmopolitan Cities to the Modern Megapolises." Email: leila_kiknadze@yahoo.com

Sabina MANAFOVA (Azerbaijan) is an associate professor of international relations and political science at Western University and head of the International Relations Department, as well as head of the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children's Affairs in Azerbaijan.

2005

Medea BADASHVILI (Georgia) is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University, and a lecturer at the Center for Social Sciences in the field of gender studies. Medea will also take part in the Open Society Foundations Higher Education Support Program Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (ReSET) Program until 2013.

2007

Munkhbat OROLMAA (Columbia University, Mongolia) is a professor of sociology and social work at the National University of Mongolia. His research interests include social stratification, policy research, corruption, and conflict. Email: omchue@yahoo.com

Lyudmila KIM (Columbia University, Uzbekistan) is head of the Social Work Department at the Republican Center for Social Adaptation of Children (RCSAC), which reports to cabinet ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Lyudmila manages a joint RCSAC-UNICEF project on strengthening social work practice and education and the profession in the Republic of Uzbekistan (2010-2011). Lyudmila is also a part-time senior lecturer at the School of Social Work at the Tashkent State Institute of Culture. Email: socwork.rcsac@gmail.com

OSI/Chevening Awards

2001-2002

Valentin TOÇI (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) is chief economist at the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo where he directs research and statistical functions. Valentin is also an assistant professor of economics and econometrics at the University of Prishtina and AAB-Rinvest, with fields of interest including financial economics, macroeconomics, and institutional economics.

2002-2003

Lutfiya Nazmi ZEQRİ (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) is the training and development director of Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo and a lecturer at the University for Business and Technology in Pristina.

2003-2004

Hajdar KORBI (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) is currently a deputy general manager at the Bank for Business and a lecturer at the American University in Kosovo. Previously, he worked as a principal economic adviser to the Minister of Economy and Finance and was head of the Macroeconomic Department at the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Irina VELICU (University of Warwick, Romania) is a PhD candidate and teaching assistant and lecturer at the University of Hawaii, United States, and, since 2007, a project manager at TERRA Mileniul III, Romania.

Monika BENIULYTE (University of Oxford, Lithuania) currently works as head of the Better Regulation Unit at the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania.

2004-2005

Afia ASLAM (OSI/Noon University of Cambridge, Pakistan) is a mother and an editor-in-chief at the South Asian online literary magazine, Papercuts. Previously, Afia was a member of the National Education Policy Team in Pakistan, coordinator and primary author of research on the publication *Emerging Trends in Women's Mobility, Economic Participation and Empowerment in Pakistan: A Case Study of Hostesses in Daewoo Bus Service* (2006).

Shakeel Ahmed IMTIAZ (OSI/Noon University of Cambridge, Pakistan) is a member of the directing staff at the National School of Public Policy, a training institute for civil servants in Pakistan. Shakeel has also received funding from the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to pursue training courses on international humanitarian law in Geneva, Switzerland, and on managing global governance in Bonn, Germany.

Darko PAVLOVSKI (University of Oxford, Macedonia) is a senior legal assistant in the Rule of Law Department at the OSCE Mission to Skopje. Prior to this, Darko was a legal consultant in environmental legislation on an EU project in Macedonia and worked at the Macedonian Ministry of Justice, designing and implementing legal reform projects on law making, elections, and capacity building. Email: darkopavlovski@hotmail.com

Marjan PETRESKI (Staffordshire University (PhD), Macedonia) is a lecturer and senior researcher in monetary and exchange-rate policy at the University American College, Skopje. Marjan's broader research interests include empirical growth analysis and short-term macroeconomic forecasting. A former research associate at the Ministry of Finance and at the Central Bank of Macedonia, Marjan won the Young Scientist Award 2009 from the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. E-mail: m.petreski@staffs.ac.uk

Muhammad TEHSIN (Royal Holloway, Pakistan) is an assistant professor in the Department of Nuclear Politics, Faculty of Contemporary Studies at the National Defense University, Islamabad. Dr. Tehsin has an interest in international theory,

regional nuclear deterrence, and peace and conflict studies. Muhammad earned his PhD from the University of Vienna on a Pakistan Higher Education Commission Scholarship.

Veljko VORKAPIC (University of Oxford, Croatia) is a researcher at the Department of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency, Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar, Zagreb, with an interest in biomass energy and the environmental assessment of the energy sector. Email: vorkapic@eihp.hr

Avni ZOGIANI (University of Sussex, Kosovo) is a civil society activist and a founder of a leading NGO on rule of law and anticorruption matters. Email: zavni@hotmail.com

2005-2006

University of Oxford

Nataliya ARISTOVA (Russia) is a senior lecturer at the Department of Foreign Languages, Kazan State Technical University, and has published over 20 articles in scientific journals, as well as having written two books on communication strategies and language learning. Email: natalie_aristova@mail.ru

Zhuldyz BAKYTZHANOVA (University of Oxford, Kazakhstan) is a senior consultant in the Advisory Department at PricewaterhouseCoopers Tax and Advisory LLP, Kazakhstan, and a member of the Association of Economists of Kazakhstan. Email: zbakytzhanova@yahoo.co.uk

Antoniya CHILIKOVA (Bulgaria) is a project consultant and expert on sustainable tourism development at the Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism. Currently, Antoniya is involved in the preparation of a project on the “Common Strategy for the Sustainable Territorial Development of the Cross-Border Area of Romania-Bulgaria.” In 2007, Antoniya received an Open Society Foundations Alumni Grant to lead a project on the “Foundation of Oxford University Society-Bulgarian Branch.” (www.ousbg.org). Email: antoniach@yahoo.com

Sorana CORNEANU (Romania) is a lecturer in English at the University of Bucharest. Sorana has published several articles on 17th and 18th century literature, as well as co-edited a book entitled *(In)Hospitable Translations: Fidelities, Betrayals, Rewritings*. Email: soranamihaela.corneanu@g.unibuc.

Edlira ALKU (University of Sussex, Albania) currently works in the third sector as an advice manager for Citizens Advice, UK.

Branimir JOVANOVIĆ (Staffordshire University, Macedonia) is currently an economic analyst and researcher at the national bank of Macedonia. Email: brantscho@yahoo.ca

Geron KAMBERI (University of Sussex, Albania) is a policy and advocacy officer at Oxfam in Albania. Geron previously worked with the GTZ-supported project on “Empowering Civil Society in Albania in Decision-Making Process” at the Council of Ministers of Albania.

Shuhrat MIRZOEVI (University of St. Andrews, Tajikistan) worked on the World Bank’s macro-economic policy dialogue with the Tajik government and advised on the impact of the economic crisis on the domestic economy. In the fall of 2010, Shuhrat began a PhD in economics at Rutgers University as a grantee of the Open Society Foundations Doctoral Fellows Program. Email: smirzoev177@gmail.com

Arben MUSTAFA (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) is currently director of the Directorate for Economic Analyses at the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, and is a PhD candidate in economics at Staffordshire University.

Ilija Mitrev PENUSLISKI (University of Oxford, Macedonia) is an attorney in public international law and arbitration with an international law firm in Paris. Ilija has an LLM from Harvard and has worked with the United States Agency for International Development. Email: ipenusliski@yahoo.com

Zornitsa VLADOVA (University College London, Bulgaria) works as an economist at the Economic Research and Forecasting Directorate of the Bulgarian National Bank, focusing on econometric modeling and inflation forecasting. Zornitsa is currently completing her second working paper on wage and price-setting behavior in Bulgarian firms.

Alban ZOGAJ (University of Staffordshire, Kosovo) is research director at the Riinvest Institute, Kosovo, and a lecturer. Alban has contributed to a number of reports published in Kosovo, regarding the socioeconomic situation as well as papers published internationally. Email: alban.zogaj@riinvestinstitute.org

2006-2007

Najla AYUBI (University of York, Afghanistan) is working in law, human rights, and women’s empowerment as a program director at The Asia Foundation, Afghanistan. Najla has strong links to civil society in Afghanistan. A former attorney, Najla now serves on the board of the Open Society Foundations office in Afghanistan.

Eugeniu BURDELNI (University of Oxford, Moldova) currently works as chief of the Interparliamentary Relations Unit and is deputy director of the Office of Foreign Affairs in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. Eugeniu has written several articles in the area of globalization, EU Neighborhood Policy, and Labor Migration.

Fjolla CEKU (University of Sussex, Kosovo) is an information and communications officer at the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo.

Emiliano GJIKA (University of Oxford, Albania) is a lecturer and practicing lawyer in international trade law. Previously, Emiliano worked as a consultant for the Council of Europe on data protection and criminal law in Albania and was the author of IET’s annual report on the pretrial detention system in Albania. Email: emiliano.gjika@st-annes.oxon.org

Unana GOGOKHIA (University of Essex, Georgia) works for BGI Legal Advisory Services, Georgia, after receiving her MA in international economic law from the University of Warwick.

Hadeel KHASAWNEH (University of Nottingham, Jordan) is a program officer for Local Governance at the International Republican Institute in the area of political development. Email: hadool25@yahoo.com

Bachtiar KURNIAWAN (University of Nottingham, Indonesia) is a project manager and officer in parliamentary reform issues at the Parliamentary Support Program for Governance Unit, UNDP, Indonesia.

Mihaela LUPU (University of Oxford, Romania) is a lecturer at the Teacher Education Department at the University of Arts “George Enescu” in Romania in the field of education. Mihaela has several publications, and will soon have a coauthored article published in the *Journal of Studies in Education* on preservice teacher education. Email: office_lupumihaela@yahoo.com

Haissam Riad MINKARA (University of Leeds, Lebanon) is a research manager at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems focusing on election security and administration in Lebanon. Previously, Haissam developed a risk assessment tool for the Lebanese parliamentary elections in 2009, which was adopted by the Lebanese cabinet as a part of its security plan for elections. Email: minkarar@hotmail.com

Shazra Azhar MURAD (Royal Holloway, Pakistan) is currently a project manager for the UNDP’s Pakistan Human Development Report. Shazra’s work involves extensive work on human

development issues for South Asia, focusing on gender, health, education, governance, human security, and poverty. Email: shaz-raazhar@yahoo.com

Dilafuz NAZAROVA (University of Essex, Tajikistan) was previously employed as a country director for the British Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Tajikistan and chairperson of the Board of the Tajik NGO Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law. In fall 2010, Dilafuz begins PhD studies at Rutgers University, United States, as a recipient of the Open Society Foundations Doctoral Fellows Program.

Claudia Sonia PAVLENKO (University of Oxford, Romania) is a PhD student at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Email: sonia.pavlenko@euro.ubbcluj.ro

Darya SOLOVEY (University of Oxford, Belarus) recently worked at the NGO London Civic Forum as a research project manager engaging in empowerment projects for vulnerable populations, giving feedback on governmental policy decisions. Darya is now a full-time mother. Email: darya.solovey@yahoo.co.uk

Blerim VELA (University of Sussex, Kosovo) is a program officer at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, working on the preparation and implementation of the Assembly of Kosovo Action Plan on European Integration.

Satya Budi UTAMA (University of Essex, Indonesia) is currently program manager of Disaster Management at the French Red Cross (Indonesia Mission). Email: bungtommo@gmail.com

Kalina YORDANOVA (University College London, Bulgaria) works in the area of trans-generational trauma transmission and as a psychotherapist. Kalina has given several presentations on child trauma and written articles for journals, including the *Journal of European Issues*.

2007-2008

Sukaina BHOJANI ALI WALI (University of Cambridge, Pakistan) was assistant professor at the Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education in the field of psychology. Currently a full-time mother, Sukhaina uses her psychology background to counsel prospective and young mothers on child development.

Lira DUISHEBAEVA (University of York, Kyrgyzstan) works at the Peace and Development Program, UNDP, Kyrgyzstan. Lira has previously worked in the area of human trafficking and has researched nation-

al peace and development issues. Email: lduishebaeva@yahoo.com

Agon DULA (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) is head of the Product Development Unit at ProCredit Bank, Kosovo, as well as a member of a "task force" created to organize and advise new students on business-related courses at the newly opened University of Prizren, the second public university in Kosovo. Agon will also become an academic staff member in October 2010.

Andreyana IVANOVA (University of Oxford, Bulgaria) is currently an equality and diversity research officer for the UK local government in London. Andreyana also works as a volunteer equality and diversity consultant for the British journalist and writer Petra Kendall-Raynor. Email: andreyana.ivanova@gmail.com

Evgenia IVANOVA (University of Oxford, Belarus) is currently undertaking a DPhil in politics and international relations at the University of Oxford and is a lecturer at European Humanities University, Vilnius. Evgeniya is also a cofounder of Adliga: Women For Full Citizenship, an NGO focusing on women. Email: evgenia.ivanova@ehu.lt

Aziz HAYDAROV (University of Manchester, Tajikistan) works for the Asian Development Bank's Southeast Asia Regional Department in Manila, Philippines. Aziz previously worked as a country officer at the World Bank's Tajikistan country office. Email: khaidarov_a@mail.ru

Nino LAPIASHVILI (University of Edinburgh, Georgia) is director of the Institute for European Studies at Ivane Javakhsishvili Tbilisi State University. Previously, Nino was the former head of Euro-Atlantic Integration Unit at the International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Nial MEMETI (Staffordshire University, Macedonia) is head of the Unit for Programming, Technical Implementation, and Monitoring of Instruments for pre-accession funded projects at the Department for European Integration, Ministry of Economy, Macedonia. Email: nial.memeti@gmail.com

Malik MUKHITDINOV (University of St. Andrews, Uzbekistan) is a development project assistant at the UNDP Uzbekistan.

Marjan PETRESKI (Staffordshire University (PhD), Macedonia) is a lecturer and senior researcher at the University American College, Skopje, in monetary and exchange-rate policy.

Marjan's broader research interests include empirical growth analysis and short-term macroeconomic forecasting. A former research associate at the Ministry of Finance and at the Central Bank of Macedonia, Marjan won the Young Scientist Award 2009 from the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. E-mail: m.petreski@staffs.ac.uk

Ljubica PETROVIC (University of Cambridge, Croatia) is a senior adviser at the Agency for Mobility and EU Programs (AMEUP) in Zagreb, Croatia, concentrating on educational development and mobility. Ljubica also heads an NGO, EduConnect, which promotes educational improvement. EduConnect is also partnering with the Institute for Social Research to promote pioneering leadership in teaching programs. Email: ljubica.petrovic@cantab.net

Dragana RADICIC (Staffordshire University, Bosnia and Herzegovina) is currently pursuing her PhD at Staffordshire University, beginning June 2010.

Osman RRACI (Staffordshire University, Kosovo) works for the TurnAround Management Program in Kosovo operated by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Osman has recently written a piece on "The Effect of Foreign Banks in Financing Firms, Especially Small Firms in Transition Economies" published in *Eastern European Economics*, Vol. 48, No. 4. E-mail: mrraci@hotmail.com

Ganchimeg TSERENJARGAL (University of Manchester, Mongolia) currently works in capacity building and training experts on the Policy and Operational Framework Reform (POFR) subproject which implements the "Policy and Operational Framework Reform" component of the MCA-M TVET project.

Social Work Fellowship Program, Washington University in St. Louis

2000

Natela PARTSKHALADZE (Georgia) currently works as a child protection officer at UNICEF, Georgia, and as a lecturer at Tbilisi State University. Natela is also pursuing a PhD at Ljubljana University, Slovenia, as part of the International Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Policy. Natela also received an Open Society Foundations Alumni Grant in 2003 and 2008.

2002

Aytakin HUSEYNLI (Azerbaijan) is head of the Country Office of Hilfswerk Austria International in Azerbaijan. Aytakin is also the founder and chair of the Social Work Public Union in Azerbaijan, and is involved in several other projects relating to social work, including a project on establishing a social policy and social work department at the Azerbaijan State Economic University. Email: aytakin@gmail.com

2005

Zurab TATANASHVILI (Georgia) is a lecturer in three leading universities in Tbilisi at the MA and BA levels in public health and social work. Email: zurabat@gmail.com

2006

Khudodod KHUDODODOV (Tajikistan) is national project coordinator for the International Labor Organization, working on projects related to labor migration. With the help of Open Society Foundations funding, Khudodod also serves as chair of the Professional Social Work Association of Tajikistan. The association also aids the Tajik National University in social work syllabus development, as well as raising community awareness of social work.

Lutfiya FARHODOVA (Tajikistan) is currently working for the Aga Khan Foundation's Evaluation Research and Learning Unit as a coordinator. Previously, Lutfiya coordinated cross-border activities in the areas of natural resource management, enterprise development, cross-border tourism, rangeland rehabilitation, and watershed management. Email: lutfiya_f@yahoo.com

2007

Turana ALIYEVA (Azerbaijan) is currently a professor at Baku State University, where she coordinates family therapy. In 2005, Turana authored a book on evidence-based community psychological services for children with special needs and their families.

Sevinj ASGAROVA (Azerbaijan) is an advocacy program manager in child welfare and protection issues at World Vision and a lecturer on Social Work Research Methods at Khazar University, Baku. Sevinj has been a contributor to the development of standards about the status, rights, and responsibilities of social workers who are working with children and families and child protection with the Azeri government.

2008

Tamerlan RAJABOV (Azerbaijan) is a part-time researcher in an NGO funded by the Open

Society Foundations Mental Health Initiative. Previously, Tamerlan taught social work at Baku State University and acted as an advisor for the implementation of children's rights in the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children's Affairs in Azerbaijan. She also has a book chapter *Social Work in Azerbaijan: Development in Post-Soviet Era* to be published in September 2010.

Undergraduate Exchange Program

2006

Uuriintuya BATSAIKHAN (University of Arkansas, Mongolia) works as a secretary and interpreter at the Access to Justice and Human Rights Project, UNDP. Her past research has included her master's thesis on "Divergent Paths of Inflation Stabilization: A Comparative Study of the Role of Currency Board Arrangements in Estonia and Poland." Email: uuree_mf@yahoo.com

Diana CONSTANTINESCU (Bard College, Romania) is an MA student in legal and political theory at University College, London. Diana also works as a project assistant on the Erasmus Mundus Program "Menu for Justice," Mundus LLP Project, UK, and is a member of the Link Education and Practice (LEAP) program. See: uk.linkedin.com/in/dianaconstantinescu

Aleksandar NEDELKOVSKI (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Macedonia) graduated from South Eastern European University with a degree in English. In 2008, he directed an English language summer camp in Japan, after which he was inspired to set up an American Summer Camp for children from low-income families in Macedonia with volunteers from the University of Wisconsin.

Munkhzul SAINBAYAR (University of Montana, Mongolia) is currently a Fulbright Scholar studying international development studies, and has worked in Community and Social Development at the Millennium Challenge Account of Mongolia. Email: munhzul.s@gmail.com

2007

Olga RUSU (University of Arkansas, Moldova) currently works at the Educational Advising Center, Moldova. Email: olga.v.rusu@gmail.com

2008

Bojan ELEK (George Mason University, Serbia) is a BA student at the University of Belgrade, majoring in political science. Bojan is also in the process of forming a local nonprofit organiza-

tion in Kosovo, which will promote diversity and interethnic understanding. Email: elekbojan@gmail.com

Tijana KAITOVIC (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Serbia) is currently in the final year of her BA, writing her dissertation on civilian crisis management within United Nations and its cooperation with the European Union. Tijana interns at the Belgrade Center for Security Policy and will take up an internship in Austria through the Djindjic Foundation. Email: tjnk-tvc@yahoo.com

Ana SIMON (University of Montana, Moldova) is a trainer at the AIESEC Moldova in Moldova, as well as acting as a UEP home country project advisor. Ana blogs on social issues mainly concerning Moldova.

Dalibor STAJIKJ (University of Georgia, Macedonia) is an assistant as part of a six-month internship sponsored by the German government at the Deutsche Welle in Bonn, Germany. As part of his UEP Home Country Project, Dalibor created a youth project that empowered young Roma populations. ■

Contribute to the next Scholar Forum!

COVER TOPIC: Corruption & Governance

The 14th Edition of *Scholar Forum*, to be produced in late 2011, invites articles, editorial pieces, and opinions on the controversial issue of corruption and governance, and on the geographical area of the Caucasus.

COVER TOPIC:

Corruption and Governance

Corruption: a disease which infects all societies. The effect on society and ordinary citizens can range from a seemingly unavoidable irritation to a serious impediment to meritocracy and transparency. To a greater or lesser degree, corruption intertwines with governance, and the strength of one frequently indicates the weakness of the other. Essays on this relationship, its manifestation and impact in your country or area of research, and any positive developments

you've seen in government policy or civil society action, are welcome.

Maximum Length 750-1000 Words

REGIONAL FOCUS:

The Caucasus

The three ancient lands of the Caucasus present a fascinating point of reflection for a look at current trends, opinions, developments, stalemates and setbacks of our regional focus. Articles and opinion pieces from your experiences and research on any aspect of life in the Caucasus, from oil wealth to educational development, are welcome.

Maximum Length: 750-1000 Words

Personal Accounts

We welcome any personal thoughts you have on your experiences during your

REGIONAL FOCUS: The Caucasus

scholarship: your reflections, opinions, and photographs are welcome. Many of your insights resonate strongly with your fellow scholars, past and present.

Maximum Length: 300-750 Words

Alumni

As always, we relish hearing about our alumni: from your current working position and academic career, to calls for collaboration in an event or conference, please feel free to send us a short note for publication.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor regarding the content of Scholar Forum are welcome and will be printed at the editor's discretion.

Maximum Length: 300 words

Academic Showcase

Building on the wealth of knowledge and critical inquiry Open Society Foundations scholars create during their scholarship and beyond, Scholarship Programs invites all scholars to submit summaries or abstracts of their research to be published in the Scholar Forum's Academic Showcase section.

Submissions should be short and relate to an area of research undertaken as part of an MA or PhD degree, or to independent research being conducted in the field. Due to space constraints, Scholarship Programs will only print exceptional pieces, but will endeavor to send improvement points from the editorial board to each author.

Please observe the following guidelines for article submission:

Abstracts

Maximum Length: 350 words

Abstracts are a concise text encapsulating the whole body of research to be addressed in a longer paper or presentation to follow. Outline the topic of research, the main objective of the research or the research problem, the methodology employed, the main findings, and your conclusions.

Research in Progress Essays

Maximum Length: 1500 words

For Research in Progress Essays, authors need to be cognizant of the educated but general nature of the audience, therefore specialized terms and concepts should be concisely explained in simple terms. Articles should include footnotes and references, and any ideas expressed by other authors should be referred to in Harvard Style within text.

Introduction: include a brief statement on the thesis/rationale to be developed in the article, as well as a short summary of the findings and recommendations. Outline what the work is part of (i.e. PhD, MA, independent research).

Analysis and Discussion: clearly and concisely explain any of the theories, concepts, and terminology, citing concrete examples. Keep in mind the audience will be outside of your discipline.

Recommendations (may be included in previous chapter): outline your recommendations or aspects for further study or research.

Conclusion: concisely summarize the content of the work above.

Email submissions to scholarforum@sorosny.org by May 15, 2011

HESP

International Higher Education Support Program

The International Higher Education Support Program (HESP) promotes the advancement of higher education within the humanities and social sciences, throughout the region of Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe, Russia, the states of the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia.

HESP Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching

The Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (ReSET) aims to develop and nurture teaching at the undergraduate university level. The program establishes a framework for the long-term collaborative development of scholarly teaching for qualified and dedicated regional and international faculty, and creates opportunities for substantial contribution to the process of educational change in the region.

For more details about the program and eligibility requirements, and to download applications, please visit the website at: www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/reset

HESP Academic Fellowship Program

The Academic Fellowship Program offers support to reform-minded university departments and faculty returning to the region with international degrees to contribute to the academic development in the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, and select countries of the Balkans. The program also offers fellowships for highly qualified international academics interested in consulting with those departments on reform plans. Please see www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp for more details, or send an email of inquiry to afp@osi.hu.

HESP Mobility Programs: Student Mobility

The program supports visits to/from a HESP network institution by students enrolled at higher education institutions in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia. For more information, see www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/mobility/grants/student

Southeast European Student Initiatives

The Southeast European Student Initiatives program supports cross-border student initiatives to empower students to address systemic changes in higher education from university student communities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. For more details and a list of student networks, please see: www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/sesi

The Central Asia Research and Training Initiative

The Central Asia Research and Training Initiative promotes the development of indigenous capacities for original scholarly and academic work and internationalization of scholarship in the region of Central Asia and Mongolia and Afghanistan through supporting individuals in the early stages of their formal doctoral studies (such as aspirantura) and focuses on the development of ideas and skills for high-quality research work. Senior fellowships are also offered for postdoctoral faculty to advance or revise their research agenda and develop international research and teaching partnerships. For a complete program description please see: www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/carti

OPEN SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP

The Open Society Fellowship supports individuals seeking innovative and unconventional approaches to fundamental open society challenges. The fellowship funds work that will enrich public understanding of those challenges and stimulate far-reaching and probing conversations within the Open Society Foundations and in the world. For detailed information on the Open Society Fellowship and for grantee profiles, please see www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship, sending all inquiries OSFellows@sorosny.org.

ALUMNI GRANT PROGRAM

The Open Society Foundations Scholarship Programs is pleased to offer the Alumni Grant Program. This program offers grants to Scholarship Programs alumni to further expand the knowledge gained during their fellowship and to make a positive contribution in their home country. All grant proposals must be related to the Open Society Foundations mission of supporting programs in the areas of educational, social, and legal reform, and of encouraging alternative approaches to complex and often controversial issues. Preference will be given to collaborative projects between alumni, across countries and with host universities, and to projects that promote the development of a specific discipline in the region.

Detailed information including eligibility requirements, deadlines, and application forms are available from the Open Society Foundations website http://www.soros.org/initiatives/scholarship/focus_areas/alumni/guidelines or by sending inquiries to Celine KESHISHIAN, Program Manager: ckeshishian@osf-eu.org

The competition for this grant is offered once a year, beginning in January of each year. The application is made available on the website in April of the preceding year, with applications due in May.

Open Society Scholarships and Fellowships

The Scholarship Programs offers the following scholarships and fellowships. Programs are offered only in certain countries; please visit the website for details and for application information.

www.soros.org/initiatives/scholarship

Afghan Communications Scholarship:

Provides fully funded fellowships to qualified citizens of Afghanistan.

CNOUS-OSI Program:

In conjunction with the French Government, this program offers up to 15 scholarships for students in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to pursue Master's degrees in the social sciences and humanities at institutions in France.

DAAD-OSI Program:

A joint scholarship program in Germany for graduate students and junior faculty from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine who are pursuing advanced studies in the social sciences and humanities.

Doctoral Fellows Program:

The OSI Doctoral Fellows Program is designed to provide the highest research and teaching qualifications to individuals from Moldova and Tajikistan who are positioned to become leading scholars in the social sciences and humanities.

EARTH University Awards

Provides up to 10 awards for accomplished students and young leaders from Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique and Sierra Leone to complete a 4-year undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management, Social Responsibility and Entrepreneurship at EARTH University in Costa Rica (for information, please go to: <http://www.earth.ac.cr>)

Faculty Development

Fellowship Program:

A non-degree program that offers up to 15 awards for faculty teaching social sciences and humanities in the Caucasus and Central Asia to spend one semester at a U.S. university and one semester teaching at their home universities, each year for up to three years.

Georgian Scholarship Program for Public Health Professionals:

Jointly funded by the Open Society Foundations, the Georgian Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), and U.S. host universities, six awards per year are offered to Georgian scholars who demonstrate both academic excellence and the potential to become leaders in the field of public health.

Global Supplementary Grant Program:

Offers supplementary grants to students from selected countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union to pursue doctoral studies in the humanities and social sciences at accredited universities in Asia, Australia, the European Union, and North America.

Open Society Foundations University of Maastricht and Aarhus University Awards:

Provides European Studies MA scholarships at Maastricht University to scholars from Georgia, Moldova, and the Ukraine, and at the University of Aarhus in Denmark to scholars from Belarus.

OSF UK Scholarship Programs:

One-year Master's level awards, generally in the social sciences and humanities, for students and scholars to study at various institutions in the United Kingdom.

Palestinian Faculty

Development Program:

Aims to increase capacity within the higher education sector in the West Bank/Gaza by supporting PhD and short-term visiting fellowships for faculty members from Palestinian universities at U.S. host institutions.

Palestinian Rule of Law Program:

Supports LLM degree studies for up to 10 Palestinian lawyers or law graduates annually at U.S. law schools and the Central European University.

Social Work Fellowship Program:

Provides up to 10 awards for individuals from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to complete a two-year Master's degree in social work in the United States.

Supplementary Grant Program—Asia:

Partial scholarships awarded to Burmese students worldwide who are currently unable to pursue their studies in Burma.

Undergraduate Exchange Program:

A non-degree program for university students in Southeastern Europe and Mongolia to attend university in the United States.

Scholar Rescue Fund:

Supports scholars who are at risk in their home country by providing them fellowships at "safe" universities and colleges throughout the world. Scholars from any country may qualify. (For information please go to: www.ief.org/srf)

ScholarForum

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