

Elliott School of
International Affairs

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Central Asia Program

THE CENTRAL ASIA SECURITY WORKSHOP

March 25-26, 2013

**Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies
Elliott School of International Affairs
George Washington University
1957 E Street NW, Washington DC
Lindner Commons, 6th Floor**

NATO members are exiting from Afghanistan at different speeds, dictated by pressures from their domestic public opinions. This withdrawal has re-launched debates on the security of the Central Asian region. In the years to come, the post-2014 changes in the regional landscape will intersect with domestic evolutions including changes in political leadership, in demographics, and the end of the Soviet legacy. GW's Central Asia Program seeks to participate in the policy debate on Central Asia by providing current research on the different sources of potential insecurity in the region.

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 (8.45 am – 4 pm)

8.45 am. Registration

9 am. Opening Remarks

9.15-11 am. CENTRAL ASIA IN THE AFGHAN NEIGHBORHOOD: DO WE GET IT RIGHT?

The panel discusses the relevance of the security debate surrounding Afghanistan's neighbors. Central Asian governments as well as external actors focus almost exclusively on the risk of – often undefined – 'spillovers', the need for more border security, and on a confused strategy, which unifies drug trafficking and Islamist insurgencies. Are we sure we understand this neighborhood correctly?

Chair: Chantal de Jonge Oudraat (SIPRI-North America)

Marlene Laruelle (George Washington University)
Deconstructing the 'Spillover' Narrative

Scott Radnitz (University of Washington)
Afghan Spillover Oversell: The Greater Danger of Self-Inflicted Harm in Central Asia

Georges Gavrilis (Hollings Center for International Dialogue)
The Closing of Central Asia's Borders

Sebastien Peyrouse (George Washington University)
Drug-Trafficking: Identifying the Real Challenges

11-11.30 am. Coffee break

11.30-1.15 pm. INTERNATIONAL LAW, GOVERNANCE, AND REGULATORY DILEMMAS

The panel discusses one of the key drivers of security problems in Central Asia, dilemmas of governance and the emerging regulation within international and regional legal regimes. China- or Russia-led institutions legitimizing the use of violence, unjust legal systems, and states' weak capacities in order to ensure the efficiency of law enforcement agencies are among the main challenges the region faces.

Chair: Scott Radnitz (University of Washington)

Sean Roberts (George Washington University)
Dilemmas of Democratization: The Problems of Transitioning from Authoritarian Rule in Kyrgyzstan and Implications for other Countries in the Region

Eric McGlinchey (George Mason University)
My Property, your Courts: The International Litigation of Contested Central Asian Assets

Erica Marat (American University)
Regulating Private Security Companies in Central Asia

Jan Harfst (UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS)
Effective resolution of water related issues as a crucial factor for security in Central Asia

1.15-2.15 pm. Lunch

2.15-4 pm. THE CURSE OF STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA?

Think tanks and commentators argue annually that the Central Asia states are on the verge of collapse, yet little changes from year to year. This panel debates the logic of imminent collapse in Central Asia and raises questions about what other issues are pressing for populations who may have to endure long-term authoritarianism that perpetuates stability in spite of decrepit economies and decaying infrastructure.

Chair: David Abramson (State Department)

Sarah Kendzior (Al Jazeera English)
The Crisis of Consistency in Uzbekistan

Gael Raballand (Institute Choiseul, Paris)
Redistribution of oil revenues in Kazakhstan: excessive expectations from the population?

Nate Schenkkan (Freedom House)
Kyrgyzstan: When Consolidation Fails

Zohra Ismail Beben (College of William and Mary)
Statecraft in Tajikistan: A blunt instrument for a fine task?

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013 (9.30-11.30 am)

9.30-11.30 am. ISLAM IN CENTRAL ASIA: RELIGION, POLITICS, MILITANCY AND NEW MEDIA

Fears of renewed Islamist militant attacks have dominated discussions of regional security as the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan approaches. This panel provides insights from new research into ongoing debates among Central Asian Muslims, the capabilities and limitations of militant groups, and the efforts of these groups to broaden their audience and recruitment base through new media.

Chair: Daniel Kimmage (State Department)

Noah Tucker (Registan.net)
Islamic "revival" in Central Asia: Social trend or political threat?

Nathan Barrick (Strategic consultant, CLI Solutions)
Geostrategic factors in the Islamist militant threat to central Asia

Azizullah Ghazi (Independent Scholar)
Activities of Central Asian Islamic militant organizations on the internet and social media

11.30-12 pm. Wrap up