

Academic Workshop: Transformations of EU Approaches towards Central Asia

Wednesday, 10th July 2019, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
ENC, Rue Washington 40, 1050 Ixelles

This closed academic workshop is dedicated to different stages of the European Union's (EU) engagement with Central Asia since the early 1990s. International organisations (IOs) are usually analysed as diffusers of international norms, socialising countries to the international order and standards of governance. In the workshop, we reverse this perspective and take the case of the EU to ask whether this IO learns from its interactions in the field through long term engagement or when it encounters different forms of contestations on the ground? If so, how and what exactly does the EU learn, and how this learning process influences the EU official frameworks of engagement and practice? We will map issues and fields where relevant dynamics are observed and look at micro-, meso- and macro- organisational levels of EU engagement with Central Asia, to explore the scale of feedback effects and (potential) changes in EU governance discourses and practices.

Chair: **Andreas Marazis** (Head of Research for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, ENC, Belgium)

Discussant: **Prof. Rick Fawn** (University of St Andrews, United Kingdom)

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| 09:00 – 09:10 | Opening remarks: <i>Samuel Doveri Vesterbye</i> (Managing Director, ENC, Belgium) <i>Oleg Korneev and Karolina Kluczevska</i> (GLOBALCONTEST, University Paris 13) |
| 09:10 – 09:55 | Zhanibek Arynov (Institute of World Economics and Politics, Kazakhstan): <i>Global giant, regional dwarf? Perceptions of the EU in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan</i> Oybek Madiyev (University of Kent, United Kingdom): <i>The EU's new strategy towards Central Asia: post-Karimov Uzbekistan and the return of geo-politics?</i> Selbi Hanova (CADAP 6 National Coordinator, Turkmenistan): <i>The EU and Central Asian regional cooperation: The perceptions of, on and within the region amidst the functionalist logic</i> |
| 09:55 – 10:35 | Comments and discussion |
| 10:35 – 10:50 | Break |
| 10:50 – 11:20 | Chiara Pierobon (University of Bielefeld, Germany): <i>Civil Society and EU prevention of violent extremism in Kyrgyzstan: analysing patterns of interactions, contestations and transformations</i> Medet Tiulegenov (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan): <i>Does UN's Universal Periodic Review help beacons of democracy to shed light in darkness? How Europe engages with Central Asia on human rights</i> |
| 11:20 – 11:45 | Comments and discussion |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | Oleg Korneev and Karolina Kluczevska (University Paris 13, France): <i>Learning from your student? Case study of the EU governance strategies and practices in Tajikistan</i> Fabienne Bossuyt (University of Ghent, Belgium): <i>The 'good life' as an alternative to neo-liberal governance: proposing a post-development approach to EU resilience governance in Central Asia</i> |
| 12:15 – 12:40 | Comments and discussion |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | Discussion and what comes next |