

DIALOGUES ON CENTRAL ASIA

Interdisciplinary Workshop

Date: October 9, 2026

Venue: Kartini Room - Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis ([Google Maps](#))

Schedule

Time	Programme
09:00-09:30	Arrival & Coffee
09:30-09:45	Opening Remarks
09:45-11:15	Panel I – Mediatised Identities
	Assel Kamza Almaty Management University · Almaty, Kazakhstan <i>Screening the Secular: The Politics of Veiling and Islamophobia in Modern Kazakh Cinema (2019–2025)</i>
	Ramazan Bakyradinov Nazarbayev University · Astana, Kazakhstan <i>Reifying the Other: Anti-China Narratives in the Kazakh-Soviet Literature</i>
	Lena Wolf Independent Author · London, UK <i>Drawing Memory Across Borders: A Graphic Memoir of Soviet Germans in Kazakhstan</i>
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Panel II – Cultural Memory
	Görkem Atsungur American University of Central Asia · Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan <i>SKAD Analysis of Heritage, National Identity, and Tourism Branding in Post-Soviet Central Asia</i>
	Olivier Arifon Côte d'Azur University · Nice, France <i>Between Soviet Legacy and Sovereign Memory: State and Independent Russian-Language Media Discourses in Kazakhstan</i>
	Bushra Alhuzili University of Leeds · Leeds, UK

	<i>The 'Islam Card' in Soviet–Saudi Relations: The Role of Central Asia – A Case Study of Hajj (1944–1979)</i>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Panel III – Decoloniality and Race
	Kamila Smagulova Leiden University · Leiden, The Netherlands <i>Nevada-Semipalatinsk Anti-Nuclear Movement: Placing the Soviet Union into the Framework of Global Colonialism</i>
	Nodira Kholmatova [online] University of Amsterdam · Amsterdam, The Netherlands <i>Is the Global East a Neo-Orientalism? The Ethics of Framing Central Asia</i>
	Lyazzat Shakirova [online] University of Toronto · Toronto, Canada <i>Knowledge Production at the Periphery? Collaboration and International Visibility of Central Asian Social Science Research, 2000–2025</i>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:30	Panel IV – Digital Media
	Aditya Verma Jamia Millia Islamia · Delhi, India <i>Scrolling Through the Steppe: TikTok, Youth Identity, and the Vernacular Politics of Central Asian Digital Culture</i>
	Mukarram Otamurodova Webster University · Tashkent, Uzbekistan <i>Gender-Based Online Violence Against Female Journalists in Uzbekistan: Digital Safety Issues and Legal Measures</i>
	Zebo Isakova Kimyo International University · Tashkent, Uzbekistan <i>Platformed Migration: Digital Communities, Skills, and Mobility Among Central Asian Migrants</i>
	Christopher Wizda [online] Independent Researcher · Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia <i>AI, Linguistic Asymmetry, and the Reproduction of Colonial Knowledge in Central Asian Studies</i>
17:30-18:00	Coffee & Wrap-Up
18:00	Dinner (Restaurant to be decided)