

**CURRENTS, CROSS-CURRENTS, AND CONFLICT:
TRANSNATIONALISM AND DIASPORA IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS**

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, a number of linkages were established between the newly independent states and Diaspora ethnic groups. These are groups whose loyalties lie in their countries of residence, as well as in the countries that are considered the homeland of a distinct ethnocultural nation. The conference would like to explore the roles of Diaspora communities in the (re) emergence of identities in Central Asia. How do they influence politics and policies concerning the region?

The conference hopes to explore the following issues:

- What inter-regional and global Diaspora communities exist with regard to Central Asia and the Caucasus—IDPs, refugees, emigrants, immigrants, exiles, etc.
- How are these groups affecting policies in their host nations with regard to their home regions?
- What impact do they have on policies within the home regions?
- Which Diaspora groups have been successful in exerting political pressure and why? Which have been unsuccessful?
- What is the role of Diaspora communities in regional ethnic conflicts? To what extent have new information technologies played a role in shaping policies and politics of, and toward, the region?
- How has Diaspora necessitated new approaches to notions of "regions" and how might area studies be reconfigured by these internal and external pressures?

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday, March 16, 2002 Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall
9 a.m. Doors open. Coffee/Tea

9:30–9:40 Welcoming Remarks
Barbara Voytek, Director, Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley

9:40–10 Program Notes
Sanjyot Mehendale, Executive Director, Caucasus and Central Asia Program, UC Berkeley

Panel I

10–10:30 *Diasporas in Central Asia: Patterns of Formation, Patterns of Assimilation*
Shirin Akiner, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

10:30–11 *Diaspora and Conflict: Locality, Long-distance Nationalism, and the Delocalization of Conflict Dynamics*
Jolle Demmers, Center for Conflict Studies, Utrecht University

11–11:20 Coffee/Tea

11:20–11:50 *Virtual Diasporas: Reconstituting Central Eurasia in Cyber-space*
John Schoeberlein, Harvard Forum for Central Asian Studies, Harvard University

11:50–12:20 p.m. Panel Discussion
Discussant: John Roosa, Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy, Indonesia; Visiting Scholar,
Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley

12:20–2 Lunch Break

Panel II

- 2–2:30 *Transnational Popular Social Institutions and Turkic Communal Identity in Inner Asia*
Hélène Perrin Wagner, Ph.D, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales; Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard University
- 2:30–3 *China in Central Asia: Invasion or Evasion*
Dru C. Gladney, Asian Studies and Anthropology, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
- 3–3:20 Coffee/Tea Break
- 3:20–3:50 *The Uighur Community in Central Asia: Changes During the Last Decade*
Ablet Kamalov, Kazakh Academy of Science, Institute of Oriental Studies; Visiting scholar, Oxford University, UK
- 3:50–4:30 Panel Discussion
Discussant: Shirin Akiner, SOAS, University of London

Sunday, March 17, 2002

Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall

Panel III

- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Tea
- 10–10:30 *Russians in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Issues and Concerns*
Kulbhushan Warikoo, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- 10:30–11 *The Afghan Diaspora: Reflections on the Imagined Country*
Eden Naby, Harvard University
- 11–11:20 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11:20–11:50 *Afghan Communities in Uzbekistan: Present and Prospects*
Natalya Khan, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan; Visiting Scholar, UC Berkeley
- 11:50–12:20 p.m. Panel Discussion
Discussant: Turaj Atabaki, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 12:20–1:30 Lunch Break

Panel IV

- 1:30–2 *State, Homeland, and Diaspora: The Armenian and Azerbaijani Cases*
Stephan Astourian, Department of History, UC Berkeley
- 2–2:30 *Diasporic Encounters: The Role of Diasporic Organizations in Armenia's Post-Soviet Transition*
Armine Ishkanian, Research Fellow, UC Berkeley
- 2:30–3 Panel Discussion
- 3–3:10 Closing Remarks
- 3:10–3:30 Coffee/Tea

Contact CCAsP at ccasp@uclink.berkeley.edu or (510) 643-5845