

Caucasus and Central Asia Program
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
University of California, Berkeley

ROCKS AND HARD PLACES: SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

Friday–Saturday, March 14–15, 2003
Lipman Room, 8th floor of Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley

The conference will feature four panels (nomadic cultures, sedentary cultures, questions of governance, and security issues) that examine the relationship between the physical environment and society, both historically and today. Questions to be addressed include:

- How have nomadic and sedentary cultures adapted to the demands of the physical world?
- What role has the environment had in shaping governance in the region?
- What impact has the environment had on attempts to modernize Central Asia?
- Are differences over resource use, particularly water, contributing to interstate tensions in the region, and do those tensions have the potential to lead to violence?

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 14, 2003

9:30–10 a.m. *Opening Remarks*, Sanjyot Mehendale
Executive Director, Caucasus and Central Asia Program, UC Berkeley

Panel I

10–10:30 a.m. *The Politics and Poetics of the Nation: Urban Narratives of Kazakh Identity*
Saulesh Esenova, McGill University

10:30–11 a.m. *Indigenous Afghan Architecture: Structure and Culture*
Thomas Barfield, Boston University

11–11:15 a.m. Coffee/tea break

11:15–11:45 a.m. Panel Discussion
Chair: Shawali Ahmadi, Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley

11:45 a.m.–1 p.m. Lunch Break

Panel II

1–1:30 p.m. *Environmental Security and Shared Water Resources in Central Asia*
David R. Smith, Ohio Northern University

1:30–2 p.m. *Water in Central Asia: Cooperation and Conflicts*
Viktoriya Levinskaya, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Uzbekistan

2–2:15 p.m. Coffee/tea break

2:15–2:30 p.m. *The Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity in Uzbekistan: The Impact of the Land Reform Process*
Eric Van Dusen, Post-Doctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley

2:30–3 p.m. Panel Discussion
Discussant: Sanjyot Mehendale, UC Berkeley

Saturday, March 15, 2003

Panel III

- 9:30–10 a.m. *Prehistoric Landscapes of Communication: Reconstructing Social and Economic Orbits of Mountain Pastoralists in the Dzhungar Mountains*
Michael Frachetti, University of Pennsylvania
- 10–10:30 a.m. *The Archaeology of Semirechye from the Bronze Age through Medieval Periods: Does Climate Matter*
Claudia Chang, Sweet Briar College
- 10:30–10:45 a.m. Coffee/tea break
- 10:45–11:15 a.m. *The Pulse of Asia: The Role of Environment in Culture Change of Early Central Asia*
Fredrik T. Hiebert, University of Pennsylvania
- 11:15–11:45 a.m. *The Steppe meets the Sown West and East of the Caspian: Environmental Constraints to Distinct Historical Processes*
Philip Kohl, Wellesley College
- 11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Panel Discussion
Chair: Barbara Voytek, Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley
Discussant: David Stronach, Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley
- 12:15–12:30 p.m. Closing Remarks