

GSPP DIGEST 05 · 2019



GOOD GOVERNANCE MATTERS







GSPP Graduation and Alumni Reunion 2019

We sincerely congratulate our graduating class of 2019! GSPP had 27 MPA and 22 MPP students who graduated in 2019. GSPP Guest of Honor at the Graduation Ceremony on 1 June 2019, Asset Issekeshev, Executive Director of the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, congratulated students, "You graduated from a university at a very important time for the country. Kazakhstan is currently carrying out modernization reforms in the economy, social sphere, regional policy and civil service. In order to successfully implement the reforms we need a new generation of civil servants. I am sure that you will successfully apply the knowledge and experience that you gained during your studies for the benefit of our country."

In turn, President of the Nazarbayev University, Shigeo Katsu, urged graduates to always strive for new knowledge and be patriots, "I hope our university has given you the necessary knowledge and skills, but keep learning! Ask yourself new questions. Wages are important, but there is another motivation. It is necessary to contribute to the development of the society."

The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, co-sponsored the Valedictory Dinner on 2 June 2019. Francesco Mancini, Associate Dean and Co-Director (Executive Education) and Associate Professor in Practice (LKYSPP) congratulated students and presented certificates on completion of the GSPP Singapore component to all graduating students.

MPA students Aliya Abulkhairova and Zhanar Ismailova, won the best MPA Final Project Award for the work titled "Government-media relations in crisis communication in Kazakhstan."

MPP students Marta Tolebayeva and Dilbar Kholmatova won the best MPP PAE Award for the work titled "Developing and using a multi-criteria framework to assess Kazakhstan's Mother House Project. GSPP and NU Alumni Public Union introduced an award for the "Outstanding GSPP Alumni." GSPP Managing Committee award the prize to Ilyas Zhukenov, MPA 2017 and Assiya Karibay, MPA 2018 for their contributions to GSPP's mission.

GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui congratulated the students and encouraged them to learn from eagles in his valedictory speech, "Keep a broad perspective of things; plan ahead, have a clear vision; keep fresh, do not rely on your past successes and face challenges head-on knowing that these will make you emerge stronger and better than you were. Achievers are not afraid of challenges; rather they relish them and use them profitably."









Astana Economic Forum 2019

Astana Civil Service Hub and NU GSPP co-organized a panel session at the Astana Economic Forum 2019 on "Reward and Recognition: how to motivate public servants in the 21st century." Shigeo Katsu, President of the Nazarbayev University gave the opening remarks.

Basskaran Nair, Adjunct Associate Professor of LKY School of Public Policy of National University of Singapore; Visiting Professor of the Graduate School of Public Policy of the Nazarbayev University delivered a presentation on "Rallying the Troops: The Role of Communication in Employee Motivation." Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Research, spoke on "Good Governance, Development and Civil Society" at another panel organized by the Ministry of Information and Social Development.

Click here to read the article on Rallying the Troops: Role of Communication in Employee Motivation. **8th Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum (EHELF), "Future Ready Graduates"**GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui moderated the Panel Session: "Future Readiness – Policies and Practices" on 6 June 2019. Dr. Fatima Zhakypova, Vice Minister of Education and Science, Dr. Eduardo Araral, Associate Professor and Co-Director Institute for Water Policy, NUS LKY School of Public Policy, Ms. Crystal Lim-Lange, CEO & Co-founder, Forest Wolf and GSPP Professor Colin Knox participated as speakers at the session. GSPP Professor Colin Knox gave a presentation entitled "Future Ready Public"

Sector Leaders and Policymakers."

27th NISPACEE Conference, Charles University of Prague, Czech Republic

Professor Colin Knox and Dr. Saltanat Janenova presented research papers at the 27th NISPACEE (Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe) annual conference: "From Policy Design to Policy Practice" during panel sessions on: Public Administration Reform in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Colin Knox); Public Administration Education (Saltanat Janenova); and, Public Sector Reform in Post-Soviet Countries (Saltanat Janenova).

GSPP PhD student Bakhytzhan Kurmanov presented a research paper "Local Drive for Optimization of Public Services in Post-Soviet transition settings: Case of Kazakhstan" at the working panel on Public Administration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia session on 25 May 2019. The paper was well received by fellow scholars and academics who offered valuable feedback during the discussion session. The paper will be published as part of the conference proceedings. NISPACEE is a highly prestigious network of scholars and experts in public administration across the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the region of Commonwealth of the Independent States and Central Asia.



IAPSS World Congress 2019: Overcoming Injustice

GSPP PhD student Slyamzhar Akhmetzharov participated in the IAPSS, World Congress 2019: "Overcoming Injustice" that took place in Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.

IAPSS is the worldwide representation of students of political science and related studies. IAPSS strives to deliver a sustainable academic contribution to the education of its members, to foster exchange among young political scientists across the globe and to promote social and scientific responsibility.

Slyamzhar presented a paper on "The development of jury trials institution in Kazakhstan: challenges and prospects" at the panel dedicated to the topic of fostering rule of law in Asian countries on 23rd May 2019. The paper attracted great interest from fellow scholars and academics as well as receiving valuable feedback in the discussion session. In particular, the audience was interested in the outcomes of legal reforms in Kazakhstan within the framework of "100 Concrete Steps policies" as well as the rationale behind the implementation of jury trials in Kazakhstan.



Slyamzhar said, "Overall, the participation at the conference had a great impact on my professional development and expertise. Interaction with a vibrant scholarly audience boosted my desire for further exploration of legal reforms from the public policy perspective."

Research News

Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Research received two certificates from Publon Academy as a verified mentor to students of the Publons Academy Practical Peer Review Training Course.

Professor Xenarios participated in Bi-annual workshop of the Specialist Group (SG) of Statistics and Economics in International Water Association (IWA), Lisbon, Portugal.

GSPP PhD student won a Central Eurasian Studies Society Travel Grant

Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, GSPP PhD student won a Central Eurasian Studies Society travel grant for US\$1,500 to attend Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society being held at George Washington University, D.C., USA, from October 10-13, 2019. Many congratulations to Bakhytzhan!

Research Seminar

Simeon Nanovsky, GSPP Post-Doctoral Scholar held a research seminar on "A New Criteria for Optimum Currency Area with Applications to the EU and CIS countries" in June 2019. He also presented the first research paper about the Eurozone, 13th International Conference "Challenges of Europe", University of Split, Croati; and presented the second research paper about suitability of currency union in the CIS countries at International Trade and Finance Association 29th Annual Conference in Livorno, Italy.Both conference trips were funded by Social Policy Grant, awarded to Simeon Nanovsky in March 2019.



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Publications and presentations

Riccardo Pelizzo, Associate Professor and Vice Dean for Research participated in the interview with Washington Times "Nazarbayev's power looms over Kazakhstan's first steps toward democracy" The article on "Ethical Values and the Perception of Corruption" by Professor Pelizzo was accepted for publication to the Journal of Governance and will be published in December 2019.

Professors Karl O'Connor, Saltanat Janenova and Colin Knox published a paper '**Open Government in Authoritarian Regimes**' International Review of Public Policy 2019, 1 (1): 65-83. This journal is the flagship journal for the most important world-wide association for public policy in the social sciences, the International Public Policy Association (IPPA).

We sincerely congratulate Associated Professor Peter Howie, who received award for the article "Policy Transfer and Diversification in Resource-Dependent Economies: Lessons for Kazakhstan from Alberta" from Politics & Policy for a top 20 most read article for 2017-2018.

Also Professor Howie prepared/edited text and commentaries in Publication of Asian Development Bank 'Good Jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central Asia and the South Caucasus', available at ADB website.

GSPP Associated Professor Stefanos Xenarios has participated as technical expert on a Position Paper about Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Position Paper was published by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) - the European Commission's science and knowledge service, and the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). The study aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process in the field of WEFE and SDs worldwide. It highlights the importance and advantages of the WEFE

Nexus as an approach and methodology in EU development cooperation.

POSITION PAPER ON WATER,
ENERGY, FOOD AND ECOSYSTEMS
(WEFE) NEXUS AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)



Professor Stefanos Xenarios has co-authored with Dr. Polatidis from Uppsala University a conference paper on ''Multi-criteria evaluation of small off-grid hydro-power projects in mountainous central Asia: the case-study of Rasht valley, Tajikistan''. The paper was presented in the Seventh International Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE 2019) and SECOTOX Conference that was jointly held in Mykonos island, Greece, from May 19 to 24, 2019. Professor Xenarios was appointed in 2018 Co-Editor-in-Chief in the research journal, Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAJWR) https://www.water-ca.org/. "Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAJWR)", ISSN: 2522-9060, is a bi-lingual, open-access, peer-reviewed e-Journal dedicated to all aspects of water management in the region of Central Asia. CAJWR is indexed in Google Scholar, the Russian Science Index System (RINZ), ROAD directory of open access scholarly resources, CrossRef, and Publons.







2019 GSPP Conference on Risk, Rationality and Resilience, 10 - 12 October 2019

The Nazarbayev University's Graduate School of Public Policy (GSPP) is kindly inviting you to participate in the third annual International GSPP Conference dedicated to the topic "Risk rationality and resilience" with several panel sessions, key-note speakers and a sightseeing tour of Nur-Sultan (Astana) city, Kazakhstan.

CONTACTS

Should you have any questions you can contact us: gsppconference@nu.edu.kz REGISTER https://gspp.nu.edu.kz/en/register/

