



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY

GSPP DIGEST 06 • 2019

BREAKING NEWS

GSPP RECEIVED EAPAA ACCREDITATION

THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF GSPP'S
EFFORTS TO HAVE THE
MASTERS PROGRAMS ACCREDITED
TO HIGHEST STANDARDS OF
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES IN
THE FIELD OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC
POLICY

GOOD GOVERNANCE MATTERS

*European Association
for Public Administration
Accreditation*

EAPAA
ACCREDITED
www.eapaa.org



GSPP receives European Accreditation – it's official!

GSPP is delighted to announce that after an 18-month review process it has received formal accreditation from the European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA).

Programs seeking evaluation by EAPAA must provide complete and detailed information in order for a Site Visit Team and the Accreditation Committee to determine conformity with European standards.

The burden of proving that the standards are met ultimately rests with the programs. We are delighted to report that the Master in Public Administration (MPA) and Master in Public Policy (MPP) programs in GSPP have been judged to meet these high European standards.

The site visit team included a panel of 3 European subject experts and, in addition a local practitioner and NU alumni (Dr Gulimzhan Sulemenova and Dr Laura Karabassova from GSE, respectively). The site visit team met with Faculty, staff, students, GSPP alumni, employers and senior management at NU (Dr O'Donnell, Dr Priestly and Dr Jablonski) who supported GSPP throughout the process. Well done to Faculty, staff and students!

Studying at GSPP is a unique experience. Education is provided in English, with an adaptive schedule, by faculty members with doctoral training from top universities around the world. Our Faculty comprises internationally-recognized scholars, academics and practitioners. GSPP professors teach courses that bridge the gap between research and practical application. The diverse expertise and backgrounds of our faculty contribute to a more integrated learning and equip our students with knowledge and skills crucial for effective policy analysis and management. The uniqueness of the learning experience at GSPP is further enhanced by the fact that the teaching is research-informed, highly interactive, with a practical focus and often utilising innovative pedagogy such as case method and analysis.





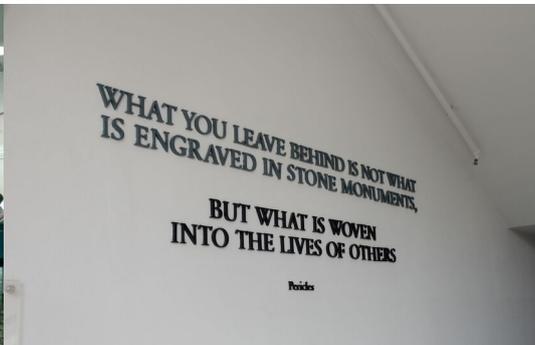
GSPP welcomed new cohort of students!

The Graduate School of Public Policy held its orientation program August 5-10, 2019. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Loretta O'Donnell and GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui welcomed new students. School Faculty members shared information on their research areas and future academic study.

GSPP welcomed 25 MPP students, 40 MPA students, 10 PhD students, including and 2 exchange students from LKY SPP. School Faculty along with instructors and teaching assistants conducted sessions on introduction to algebra, functions, linear modeling and writing guidelines that would help students to adjust in a new academic environment. Congratulations to our new students on their entry into an exciting academic journey!

GSPP Singapore Component 2019

GSPP's 25 MPP and 30 MPA students took part in the GSPP Singapore component of their Master's degree programs. During 2.5 weeks students have been engaged in a rigorous curriculum delivered by Lee Kuan Yew School professors and practitioners from different fields. It comprised in-class lectures followed by learning journeys on a variety of topics related to Singapore's economic and developmental success. Within the extensive program students visited a number of key state bodies, national enterprises and successful start-up projects. These learning journeys included the Housing Development Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Jurong Industrial Park, NEWater visitors' center, and Marina Barrage. This gave the students an opportunity to gain practical insights in the areas of housing, urban planning, and industrialization policies to inspire their academic and public service careers in Kazakhstan.



GSPP Students on Exchange Programs

This year we have 6 GSPP students who went on exchange programs. **Aiym Daulbekova and Viktoriya Malikova** to the KDI School of Public Policy and Management in Korea, **Raikhan Agumarova and Alua Sarybay** to the Renmin University of China, and **Almagul Tapayeva and Temirlan Yergazyev** to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore.

Almagul Tapayeva shared her experience in LKY SPP: “Everything is good. I am taking 4 courses: Urban Water Governance, Urban Transport Policy, Financial Issues, Trade and Investment in Asia, and Education Economics and Policy. Courses are taught by highly professional faculty, who can combine theory with practice on lectures. Our group of exchange students is very diverse. We have students from Korea, Japan, Canada, US, Germany, Italy, China and Switzerland.

Within the whole cohort of MPP and MPA students there are students from Myanmar, India, Thailand, Vietnam and this list includes more than 50 countries from A to V. I would like to express my deep gratitude to GSPP faculty and all the administrative staff for this opportunity to study in LKY SPP and for your assistance. Due to this exchange program I have a chance to meet people from each corner of the world, to broaden my horizons both in terms of academics and personal life. This is a huge contribution to the development of my future career as well as to my growth as a person in general.”

Also, GSPP welcomed exchange students, **Francesco Brusaporco from Italy and Saruul Khatanbaatar from Mongolia**. GSPP is proud of our students and we wish them every success in their studies!

GSPP Ph.D. Students

Aliya Assubayeva, GSPP Ph.D. student, participated in several conferences and workshops during summer 2019: The conference "EU-Central Asia Network for Water Science and Technology" was organized by the European Commission in Dushanbe (June 24-26); The 6th Summer School "Methods and Tools for the Assessment and Monitoring of Central Asian Water and Land Resources" organized within the frame of the CAWa project as a contribution to the German Water Initiative for Central Asia

The Scientific Writing Course "Capacity Building Workshop for Young Researchers from Central Asia and Afghanistan on Water Policy" was conducted by the OSCE Office in Dushanbe (July 21-27). In addition, Aliya Assubayeva completed the Practical Peer Review course and received a certificate from the Publons Academy.



GSPP PhD Students

Bakhytzhhan Kurmanov, a GSPP Ph.D. student has been selected by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the European Consortium for Political Research to participate in the 2nd Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy. The Summer School organized by OSCE ODIHR is one of the leading gatherings of academia, practitioners and PhD researchers in the fields of political science, public policy and democratic development. Bakhytzhhan has presented a research paper on Open Government in Central Asia: Evidence from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan that is a part of his dissertation. The paper was well received by fellow scholars and academics and received a valuable input and important comments from the following discussion. The school has provided a unique set of discussions with training on the topics of political science, democracy, public sector developments in the region of Post-Soviet region and Eastern Europe.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

Professor Peter Howie conducted a course on Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the representatives of the Economic Research Institute and GSPP PhD students on 23 August 2019. RIA is both a document and a decision process for supporting decision makers on whether and how to regulate in order to achieve public policy goals. RIA helps to improve the design of regulations by assisting policy makers in identifying the most efficient and effective solution to address a policy problem. Professor Peter Howie introduced RIA in the context of regulatory policy and governance; and Regulatory Benefit-Cost Analysis.

Funding from the UK Global Challenges Research Fund

Professor Peter Howie received research funding from the UK Global Challenges Research Fund (2019 – 2021) with St. Andrews University for “Social mobility in Kazakhstan’s extractive industries, implications for sustainable development.”

The two-year “Social mobility in Kazakhstan’s extractive industries, implications for sustainable development” project is broken down into two one-year periods.

The first year entails collecting and performing preliminary analyses on various secondary data from Kazakhstan and training researchers on surveying and interviewing techniques. The second year will entail in-depth analysis of all secondary data and collection of primary data across Kazakhstan using the trained interviewers/surveyors from the workshops. The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries.



Singapore as a Miracle, by the Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy, Weng Tat Hui

"Singapore succeeded because of the focus and emphasis on importance of core values. And the core values are honesty, integrity and non-tolerance of corruption. If we have those values firmly established in Kazakhstan it becomes easier to implement and achieve some of the vision that the government has set for the country.

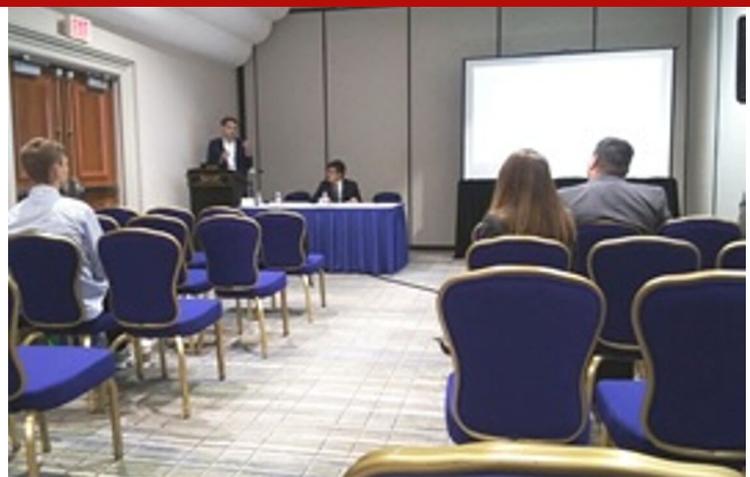
HPAIR Conference

GSPP Prof Kai Hong Phua moderated the panel session "Mental Health in the Asia-Pacific." He was invited as alumnus speaker in the Harvard Project on Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Conference, jointly organized by Harvard College and Nazarbayev University in Nursultan. He participated in the track on Social Policy and Justice, which included a panel "Modern Slavery in Asia" and a seminar on Unleashing Breakthrough Innovation in Government. In the track on Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Prof Stefanos Xenarios moderated a Session on the Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) about "Humanity's Next Threat: Loss of Biodiversity." The panel touched on issues about biodiversity impact in Asia by focusing on the growing need for economic development that could lead to various habitats' destruction. It also referred to climate change as a prevalent environmental issue and the effects of biodiversity loss. The discussion also referred to biodiversity mitigation measures and the feasibility of the rehabilitation of specific endangered species (e.g. Siberian tiger in Kazakhstan). The panelists further responded on how biodiversity issues intersect with other societal issues, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while the future biodiversity trends in Asia and moreover Central Asia were outlined. The conference was highly successful, being the first Harvard Conference in Central Asia!

Experience Sharing with the Academy of the Law Enforcement Agency

GSPP professor Aziz Burkhanov participated in the meeting organized by the NU Office for Experience Sharing with representatives of the Academy of the Law Enforcement Agency and International University of Tourism and Hospitality in August 2019. Participants discussed modern research methods, mechanisms of administering of the research grants and procedures for publishing in research journals.





Maxat Kassen participated in the annual conference as a chair of the panel in the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC

Maxat Kassen, Assistant Professor of Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Public Policy, participated in the annual symposium as a chair of the panel in the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC (USA). More than 5,000 political scientists from such world-famous universities as Harvard, MIT, Oxford, Chicago, California, Cambridge, New York and other universities and research centers from all over the world took part in this prestigious international scientific meeting. The annual congress of the American Political Science Association is a global political platform to discuss the current trends in politics and share the best experiences/methodologies in research and teaching in various fields and areas of political sciences, public affairs, public administration and international relations. As part of the association's work, an international scientific symposium is held annually at the end of August – early September, which brings together prominent scientists from more than 80 countries around the world to discuss various issues of political science development in general and public policy and public administration in all its manifestations, in particular.

Maxat Kassen participated first, as a discussant/expert in the panel titled “Making Use of the Market: Government Contracts and Outsourcing” and then as a presenter in the panel titled “Bureaucratic Effectiveness in Comparative Context”. The title of the paper that he presented in the second panel was “Open data as a collaborative trend: understanding peer-to-peer interactions.”

Maxat Kassen participated in the conference with one additional role, as the chair of the panel titled “Experimental Research and Behavioral Public Administration” (please see the truncated conference program here).

The event itself was intrinsically designed for political scientists who rely on rich empirical evidence and resort to various methods of investigation in analyzing political decision making in public administration and public policy. The scientific panel on experimental research and behavioral public administration, at which Maxat Kassen acted as a chair, was devoted to the study of administrative behavior, including through the prism of quasi-natural experiment, survey experiment and laboratory experiment in trying to understand how decision makings are made in various institutional and cross-country perspectives and shed light on the behavioral aspects of representative bureaucracy.

Also, Professor Maxat Kassen attended the book exhibition that was held at the conference main hall and where his recently published book titled “Open Data Politics” was exhibited for visitors by such a prestigious English-speaking and internationally recognized academic publishing house as Springer in their booth. Please click the link to the book: <https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030114091>.



Publications

Colin Knox (2019) Development Evaluation in Authoritarian States. Development Policy Review

GSPP Professor & Vice Dean for Research Riccardo Pelizzo has joined the international peer reviewers team of 'Society', a peer reviewed journal containing writings that are based on the results of research in the fields of Social Sciences (Sociology, Social Psychology, Social Work, Social Issues, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Political Sciences, Cultural Studies, Law and Society)

Professor Pelizzo also published articles

- In public administration review on 'Neo-patrimonialism and Corruption: Evidence from 8,436 Firms in 17 Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa';
- 'Student Feature – Advice on Writing for a Think Tank'
- Interview in the Washington Times

We are glad to share the work done by GSPP Professor Xenarios Stefanos with Murodbek Laldjebaev and Ronan Shenhav on agricultural water and energy management in Tajikistan

Professor Xenarios has also published jointly with other scholars the following articles

- Alamanos A, Latinopoulos D, Xenarios S, Tziatzios G, Mylopoulos N Loukas A (2019) Combining hydro-economic and water quality modelling for optimal management of a degraded watershed, Journal of Hydro-informatics (accepted)
- Xenarios, S., Laldjebaev, M., Shenhav, R. (2019) Agricultural Water and Energy Management in Tajikistan: a New Opportunity, International Journal of Water Resources Development, DOI:10.1080/07900627.2019.1642185 (open-access)

Dr. Saltanat Janenova shared the link to the book on 'Social Policy, Poverty, and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union,' where she co-authored chapter on Politics of Pension Reforms in Kazakhstan: Pressures for change and reform strategies. The overview is available, [click here](#).

"The Boundaries of Research in an Authoritarian State" published in International Journal of Qualitative Methods. This article provides a reflective analysis of a local scholar on methodological challenges of conducting research in Kazakhstan by Dr. Janenova.

We are delighted to inform you about the acceptance of the single-authored article by Assistant Professor Serik Orazgaliyev, "Outward Foreign Direct Investment and Bargaining Framework: China's Investment in Central Asia's Natural Resource Sector" in Thunderbird International Business Review. This is a Q1 ranked journal in Business and International Management.

Ph.D. student Bakhytzhan Kurmanov shared his first scholarly publication. The Book Review of 'Dark Shadows. Inside the Secret World of Kazakhstan' was published in the Europe-Asia Studies Journal.



The Art and Science of Policy Making, and System Analysis

IFTIKHAR LODHI

Overview

No army has ever won a battle through contracts and regulations but through shared vision and calculated strategies. The art of policy making is to find a win-win compromise among varied interests, values, and goals of various stakeholders that wins legitimacy and compliance.

The science of policy making is to identify the most effective and efficient way of achieving policy goals by gathering evidence and using a long-term systems approach.

Sessions

- The Policy Process: Agenda, Values, and Goals
- Formulating and Assessing Workable Solutions
- Implementation and Evaluation
- The Art and Science of Policy Making: A Case Study
- Organizational Analysis and Development
- Human Resource and
- Business Processes Management

The program will introduce participants with a comprehensive framework of the policy process and organizational analysis and development. The participants will go through an extensive curriculum that will enable them to comprehend the issues pertinent to policy making and organizational development ranging from agenda setting to problem analysis, solutions formulation, decision making, implementation, evaluation, business processes design, change and human resource management.

Dates

1. 18 – 20 OCTOBER, 2019
2. 22 – 24 NOVEMBER, 2019

VENUE

Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Public Policy, 53 Kabanbay-Batyr, Nur-Sultan City

COST - 198 000 KZT PER PERSON

Following discounts are provided to

- Public organizations – 20%
- Organizations sending more than 3 participants – 10%
- Organizations sending more than 5 participants - 20%

The cost includes simultaneous translation from English to Russian, coffee-breaks and lunches, as well as handout materials.

GSPP Certificate is awarded upon completion of the program

Speaker

The program will be conducted by Iftikhar Lodhi, Assistant Professor of GSPP NU. Before joining the GSPP at NU, Dr. Lodhi taught at National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia and at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Dr. Lodhi has over ten years of research, teaching, and consultancy experience in policy formulation, analysis, and evaluation. His previous published and current research focuses on issues pertaining to global governance, globalization, policy capacity, and Asia's relations with the great power's namely China and the United States.

You can apply via the email execed.gspp@nu.edu.kz or by phone + 7 7172 70 64 62



2019 GSPP CONFERENCE

ON RISK, RATIONALITY AND RESILIENCE

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
10 - 12 October 2019

gspp.nu.edu.kz

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