



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY

GSPP DIGEST 07 • 2019



GOOD GOVERNANCE MATTERS

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

181 participants attended the conference from 15 countries. Around 90 representatives from International Water Association, public sector, water management companies and students gathered at the Inaugural GSPP “Urban Water Management”. The conference was covered by Kazakh TV and Elorda Aqparat media.



Highlights from conference

GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui remarked that since in our VUCA world problems seem to become increasingly more complex and policy solutions are becoming more exposed to risk, clumsy solutions and different understanding of rationality could be a useful way to cope with risk and increased resilience. This is why, the 3rd annual GSPP Conference is devoted to the topic of Risk, Rationality and Resilience. Nazarbayev University Vice-Provost for Research, Professor Charles Surya highlighted the strong emphasis that university places on multilateral research and added: “In order for all this research to be implemented in society, you need a proper policy context.” Maxut Uteshev, Advisor to the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub noted: “The quality of research is crucial to ensure reforms’ success and sustainability.” He also announced the launch of the book on Civil Service Reforms that was presented within the conference session on Public Service Reforms in the Region.



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Panel 1 “Good governance: causes, costs and consequences”

Overview

Moderator: Leslie A.Pal, Professor of Political Science, Founding Dean, College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar;

Presenters: Colin Knox, Professor, GSPP;

Topic: Development Evaluation in Authoritarian States, Riccardo Pelizzo, Associate professor, GSPP;

Topic: Party System change and Good governance

During discussion Professor Colin Knox noted that social media explosion in Kazakhstan is an early sign that citizens have a voice. Professor Peter Howie stated that there is a market for governance, and regime shift will have to supply more governance because the public will demand it.

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Panel 2 “Anti-corruption measures and perception of corruption”

Overview

Moderator: Assistant Professor Serik Orazgaliyev, GSPP;

Presenters:

Meirat Omarov, Academy of Public Administration under President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Topic: The impact of some political risks on the investment attractiveness of Kazakhstan;

Zhomart Medeuov, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Berik Rakhimzhanov, JSC “National company “Kazakhstan Garysh Sapary”.

Topic: Spatial analytic: the evolution of public administration from monitoring and control to forecasting and planning;

Omer Baris, Assistant Professor, GSPP. Topic: Economics of Anti-Corruption Policies: The Boomerang Effect, Janar Jandosova, PhD student, GSPP. Topic: Predictors of corruption in judiciary.

During discussion Assistant Professor Omer Baris noted that the problems of measurement occur due to the hidden nature of corruption. Precise measurement will not change the nature of corrupt activity because its nature is hidden, - Professor Baris answered.



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Panel 5: “Identity Policy in Kazakhstan”

Moderator: Assistant Professor Aziz Burkhanov, GSPP

Presenters:

Aigul Sadvokassova, Head of the Center for Interethnic and Interconfessional Studies in Central Asian Region, the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Topic: State ethnic policy of Kazakhstan: the features of formations of civil identity;

Assel Kenzhetayeva, Leading Expert of the Center for Interethnic and Interconfessional Studies in Central Asian Region, the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Topic: Civil and ethnic identities of German ethnic groups of Kazakhstan;

Zhanibek Arynov, Postdoctoral scholar, GSPP. Topic: European values in the eyes of opinion-makers in Kazakhstan;

Aigul Sadvokassova shared that people’s own culture and identity do not contradict building civil identity in Kazakhstan. Assel Kenzhetayeva commented on her work that Case of German Identity in Kazakhstan represents three identities: German, Kazakh and Russian.

Panel 6: Public Service Reforms in the Region: Practices and Lessons Learnt (Part 1).

Session is organized in cooperation with Astana Civil Service Hub.

Moderators: Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub, Panos Liverakos, Technical Advisor, Astana Civil Service Hub

Presenters:

Vitalis Nakrosis, Professor, Public Administration, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University. Topic: Lithuanian Civil Service Reform 1990-2018: From the Community Legacy to a Professional Administration;

Aziza Umarova, CEO, Smart Gov Consulting. Topic: Evolution and Formation of the Civil Service System in Uzbekistan;

Iveta Reinholde, Associate Professor, Head of Political Science Department, University of Latvia. Topic: Public Administration in Latvia: Innovation Trends;

Almaz Nasyrov, Member of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub. Topic: Trajectories of Civil Service Reforms in Kyrgyz Republic: Changes and Prospects;

Afag Huseyn, Associate Professor, PhD, Department of Economics and Business Administration at Azerbaijan State University of Economics. Topic: Main Directions of the Civil Service Reforms in Azerbaijan.

Water policy challenges in urban water management are discussed at the Panel 7

Moderator: Associate Professor Stefanos Xenarios, GSPP

Ed Smeets, Chairman of SG on Statistics and Economics of the International Water Association (IWA), MD of EDMADI BV, Interim Management & Consultancy, Netherlands, held a speech on Introduction of IWA network and SG on Statistics and Economics. Teodor Popa, Financial Manager, Brasov Water Company, Romania presented on the topic: “IWA and its initiative across the globe in the pursuit of SDGs and Water Supply. Jan Hammenecker, Commercial Director of De Watergroep, Belgium held a presentation on “Performance of Water Utilities world wide through indicators and data, benchmarking analysis”. Francese Hernández, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Valencia, Spain presented about Economic dimensions of water utility performance in Europe and Mediterranean. Stanislas Pouradier Duteil, Technical Director, Veolia Water, France. Topic of presentation: Tools and optimization of infrastructure water management methods to ensure quality service at the best cost. Few concrete examples of the PPP in French context.

BOOK LAUNCH

"THE ARAL SEA BASIN WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA"



Stefanos Xenarios, Associate Professor, GSPP,
Lead Editor in this publication will outline the major contents of
the publication and the urgent need to perform sustainable water
management in the Aral Sea Basin.

October 10, 2019
16:30 - 17:00
Conference room 1010, Block C3

Assoc.Prof. Stefanos Xenarios has become the Lead Editor in the publication *The Aral Sea Basin: Water for Sustainable Development in Central Asia* which offers the first multidisciplinary overview of water resources issues and management in the Aral Sea Basin, covering both the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River Basins.

GUEST SEMINAR



**Breakdown in International Commerce: Trade
Wars and What to Do about Them**
by

Michael G. Plummer
Director of SAIS Europe (Johns Hopkins University)

October 17, 2019 (Thursday)
17:30 - 18:30
Room #2003, Block C3

Guest seminar with Michael Plummer on the “Breakdown in International Commerce: Trade Wars and What to Do about Them” was held on October 17.

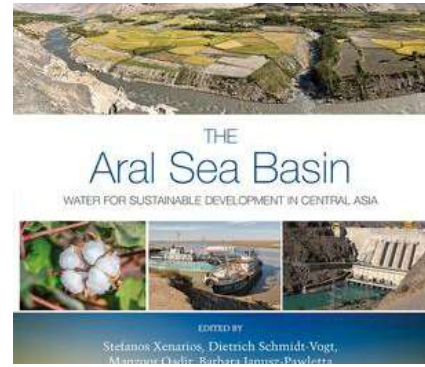


Prof. Aslan Sarinzhapov gave a presentation to 1st year MPP students during the Introduction to Public Policy and Theory class on October 28.

GSPP Alumni Reunion 2019

GSPP had an Alumni Reunion on October 26. More than 30 alumni visited the event. Both alumni and current GSPP students participated in a case study competition moderated by Professor Iftikhar Lodhi.





Professor Stefanos Xenarios:

A field trip was conducted in 15-18 September in Aspara transboundary river basin between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The field trip was organized within the master thesis of the MPA students Olzhas Alshagirov and Zhassulan Zhalgas supervised by Assc. Prof. Xenarios, about “River Basin Management in Kazakhstan: The case of Aspara sub-basin”.

Field Study

Assc. Prof. Stefanos Xenarios organized a field study for the students attending the course Water Policy and Management (MPA 685) to the wastewater treatment plant of Nur-Sultan on 28 th September 2019. The students had the opportunity to observe all the facilities of the plant and explore the stages of wastewater treatment until the discharge in Esil river.

Visiting the Environmental Reactor Engineering Lab in Block C4 of Nazarbayev University, 26 th October 2019 Assc. Professor V.Inglezakis from the School of Engineering and Digital Sciences, has offered the opportunity to the students of Water Policy and Management course (MPA 685) taught by Assc. Prof. Stefanos Xenarios, to visit the Environmental Reactor Engineering Lab where he demonstrated the operation of a pilot scale Activated Sludge Plant. Prof. Inglezakis has presented the process of biological wastewater treatment in all the different stages by explaining the significance of the experiments in the optimization of wastewater processes.

Guest Lectures in Water Policy and Management Course (MPA 685)

Guest Lecture by Dr. Dinara Ziganshina, Deputy Director, Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia.

Guest Lecture by Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Public Relations in German Kazakh University, based in Almaty,

14 September 2019. Guest Lecture by Asst. Professor Murodbek Laljebaev University of Central Asia based in Khorog Campus, Tajikistan, 19 October 2019

Publications:

Assc.Prof. Stefanos Xenarios has become the Lead Editor in the publication The Aral Sea Basin: Water for Sustainable Development in Central Asia which offers the first multidisciplinary overview of water resources issues and management in the Aral Sea Basin, covering both the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River Basins.

Assc. Prof. Stefanos Xenarios in cooperation with Prof. Bjørn Kløve from University of Oulu, Finland, Prof. Paolo Perona, from the University of Edinburgh, UK and Assc. Prof. Eduardo Aralal, Assc. Professor from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), Singapore were approved to host a Session on Water Security Frameworks, Assessment Tools and Applied Systems to be held in the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, 3-8 May 2020, Austria.

The EGU annual assembly is considered as the Europe’s premier event with more than 15,000 participants, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the Earth, planetary, and space sciences for the benefit of humanity, worldwide.

The Call for Abstracts is already open with Deadline on 15 January 2020, 13:00 CET.

Professor Colin Knox

Publications:

Colin Knox (2019): Development Evaluation in Authoritarian States. Development Policy Review. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12470>

Colin Knox and Saltanat Janenova: Depicting Public Servants in Authoritarian Regimes in Helen Sullivan and Helen Dickinson (eds) The Palgrave Handbook of the Public Servant (Palgrave Macmillan) – accepted for publication.

Karl O'Connor, Colin Knox and Saltanat Janenova: Bureaucrats, Authoritarianism and Role Conceptions. Review of Public Personnel Administration – accepted for publication.



Professor Riccardo Pelizzo

Published articles:

The Poverty Of Data In Africa: Why the Continent Needs More Bacon

Former GSPP's TA Kristina Bekenova published a book entitled 'In their own voices' ibidem press, 2019

GSPP's Dr Prof Riccardo Pelizzo authored the preface to the book. Professor's book Metodo e contro-metodo came out on October 31.

Professor Peter Howie

Journal Publication:

1. Cost-effectiveness of Mammography Screening Program in a resource-limited Post-Soviet country of Kazakhstan," Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention. With Islam Salikhanov and Byron Crape of NU School of Medicine

Regular Conference Presentations:

1. "Inequality, informality and resource booms: Evidence from Kazakhstan" Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Public Policy 3rd Annual Conference, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. With Daulet Akhmetov
2. "Comparing Emission Trading Schemes in Kazakhstan and Korea: Design Characteristics, Processes of decision-making, and the behavior of the involved actors" International Association of Energy Economics 4th Eurasian Conference, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Plenary Conference Presentations: International Association of Energy Economics 4th Eurasian Conference.

Professor Kai Hong Phua

On Oct 25, Prof KH Phua joined the WHO and Ministry of Healthcare, Kazakhstan, to celebrate the 1 st Anniversary of the Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care, with a Roundtable “Declaration of Astana: From Vision to Action”, held at University Medical Centre, Nazarbayev University.

Students' achievements:

Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, GSPP PhD. Student:
Bakhytzhan Kurmanov, a PhD student in Public Policy, has been selected by the Central Eurasian Studies Society to participate in its annual conference that took place at the George Washington University in Washington on 9-13 October. Bakhytzhan has presented a research paper on Open Government and Citizen Engagement in Central Asia: Evidence from two critical incidents in Kazakhstan which is a part of his dissertation. The paper has been well received by fellow scholars and academics and received a valuable input and important comments from the following discussion.

Temirlan Yergazyev and Almagul Tapayeva, MPP students held a presentation on Kazakhstan and GSPP in LKY in Singapore.



CONTACTS

Should you have any questions

you can contact us:

nugspp@nu.edu.kz

gspp_admissions@nu.edu.kz

+7 (7172) 70-91-49

gspp@nu.edu.kz

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Facebook: [@nugspp](https://www.facebook.com/nugspp)

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