



NAZARBAYEV  
UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY

## GSPP DIGEST 09 • 2019



# GOOD GOVERNANCE MATTERS



## **GSPP Faculty and Staff visited the Municipal Institution “Nurly Zhurek” in Nur-Sultan on December 4, 2019**

GSPP Faculty and Administrative staff had gathered charity donations and visited children who prepared a special show. We were happy to help “Nurly Zhurek” center and we believe that further charity and volunteer initiatives will be supported by GSPP faculty, staff and students.





## GSPP Open House Day on December 7, 2019

GSPP Open House Day is a great opportunity to explore GSPP MPP/MPA/PhD programs, take part in an interactive policy game, and get to know students' and alumni stories and experience.



**GSPP organized the visit of Mr. Stanley Lee, Senior Director of the Temasek Foundation International (Singapore) and meetings with a number of Kazakhstan's ministries and governmental organizations.**

Meetings took place between Stanley Lee, Senior Director of the Temasek Foundation International (Singapore) and Anar Zhailganova, Chair of the Agency for the Public Service Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.





**GSPP Assistant  
Professor Saltanat  
Janenova and  
Professor Colin Knox  
received the Scopus  
Best Paper Award  
2019 for their  
research on civil  
service reforms in  
Kazakhstan.**



**International Water Association (IWA), the largest water-related association worldwide, posted an article providing a snapshot of urban water management in Kazakhstan and the outcome of the First Water Forum along the GSPP Conference in October, 2019**

The urbanisation trend is an undeniable fact worldwide in large and small cities all over the globe. Water supply and sanitation are two of the most fundamental pillars for the sustainability of city inhabitants. Many cities in Central Asia are facing the same urbanisation trend situation by exerting high pressure on water supply and wastewater services (WWS). In the case of Kazakhstan, water supply and wastewater services (WWS) systems also currently face major challenges on the continuous and uninterrupted provision of services. Rapid urbanisation, aged infrastructure, water scarcity, and poor water quality are some of the challenges to be currently addressed. Source with the full text of the article is [here](#).

## 5 GSPP MPA alumni and students were accepted to the Presidential Youth Personnel Reserve



GSPP alumni and students **Assiya Karibay** (MPA Class of 2018), **Alibek Konkakov** (MPA Class of 2019), **Tilektes Adambekov** (MPA Class of 2020), **Zhusup Zhumagulov** (MPA Class of 2020), **Ardak Zhumagaliyev** (MPA Class of 2021) were admitted to the Presidential Youth Personnel Reserve. We congratulate our students on a great achievement and wish them well in their future endeavours. We believe that the new generation of leaders will build governance that matters.



**PREZIDENTTIK JASTAR KADR REZERVİ**

# 2019 GSPP Key Achievements

## Faculty

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. 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.”

**Refereed Publications:** (with Islam Salikhanov and Byron Crape), 2019, “Cost-effectiveness of mammography screening program in the resource-limited post-Soviet country of Kazakhstan,” Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention (with Zauresh Atakhanova), “Metal intensity of use in the era of global value chains.” Mineral Economics (with Zauresh Atakhanova), "Heterogeneous labor and structural change in low-and middle-income, resource-dependent countries." Economic Change and Restructuring;

**Non-referred Publications:** “Good Jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central Asian and South Caucasus” Asian Development Bank.

**Research Grants/Funding:** 2019 - 2021 UK Global Challenges Research Fund grant that will develop the St. Andrews – Kazakhstan Research Funding Hub (StAKz Hub) to fund research related to sustainable development in the extractive industries within Kazakhstan.

GSPP Visiting Professor **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 the track on Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Professor **Stefanos Xenarios** moderated a Session on the Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) about "Humanity’s Next Threat: Loss of Biodiversity."

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.



**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.

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).

Professor **Stefanos Xenarios** participated in Bi-annual workshop of the Specialist Group (SG) of Statistics and Economics in International Water Association (IWA), Lisbon, Portugal. 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 has organized a field study with the students attending the course Water Policy and Management (MPA 685) to the wastewater treatment plant of Nur-Sultan on 28 th September. The students had the opportunity to get guided in 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.

Professor Stefanos Xenarios took part in the Central Asia Climate Change conference held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on April 3-4 of 2019.

Professor Stefanos Xenarios also presented a research paper on the “ Climate change effects on agriculture in southeast Mediterranean: the case of Karla Watershed in Central Greece” in the General Assembly 2019 of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) held from 7–12 April 2019.

Professor Stefanos Xenarios is the Editor of an OSCE report on the Natural Hazards in Tajikistan.



**Simeon Nanovsky**, GSPP Assistant Professor presented the first research paper about the Eurozone, 13th International Conference “Challenges of Europe”, University of Split, Croatia; 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.

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

Professor Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Research launched a book *Metodo e contro-metodo*, Roma, Armando editore (with A. Napoli).

Professor Riccardo Pelizzo **published** the following articles:

“The poverty of data in Africa: why the Continent needs more Bacon”, *World Affairs*, (with Abel Kinyondo and Kristina Bekenova),

“Corruption, Roving Bandits and Public Administration: Evidence from 8,400 Firms in 17 Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa”, *Public Administration Review* , vol. 79, n.4, pp. 580-590 (with Eduardo Araral, Anton Pak, Wu Xun).

**Book reviews:** Review of Dennis de Tray, *Why Counterinsurgency Fails*, Palgrave, <https://www.geopolitica.info/why-counterinsurgency-fails/>,

Review of Salvatore Babones, *The New Authoritarianism*, Cambridge: Polity Press, <https://www.geopolitica.info/the-new-authoritarianism-trump-populism-and-the-tyranny-of-experts/>.

Professor Riccardo Pelizzo chaired the Organizing Committee of the 3rd GSPP Annual Conference.

Member of the editorial Board of the *Journal of Comparative Politics*.

Member of the Board of international reviewers of *Society*, *Journal of Governance*, *International Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research*.

Riccardo Pelizzo, Ph.D., GSPP Vice Dean for Research & Associate Professor has been added to the list of official peer reviewers of the *Indonesia Journal of Governance*.





Professor **Colin Knox**, publications:

Knox, C. (2019) ‘“Whatever you say, say nothing”: Teaching Public Administration in Northern Ireland’, *Teaching Public Administration*, 2019 Vol 37 (1): 107-120;

Knox, C. (2019) *Public Management Reforms: One-Stop Shops to Digital Government*; Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, 1 – 20. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.629 (with Saltanat Janenova);

Knox, C. (2019) ‘Mayoral Governance: A View from the North’ pps 77- 88 in D. O’Brion and E. O’Malley (eds.) *Mayoral Governance*. Dublin: Glasnevin Publishing;

Knox, C. (2019) *Public Sector Reforms in Central Asia* in A. Farazmand (ed.), *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, Springer International Publishing: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31816-5\\_3656-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31816-5_3656-1);

Knox, C. (2019) ‘The e-government paradox in post-Soviet countries’ *International Journal of Public Sector Management* 32 (6): 600-615 <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJPSM-08-2018-0173> (with Saltanat Janenova);

Knox, C. (2019) ‘Open government in authoritarian regimes’ *International Review of Public Policy*, 1 (1): 65-83 (with Karl O’Connor and Saltanat Janenova); <http://doi.org/10.4000/irpp.325> ;

Knox, C. (2019) ‘Development evaluation in authoritarian states’ *Development Policy Review* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14677679> doi: 10.1111/dpr.12470;

Knox, C. (2019) ‘Bureaucrats, Authoritarianism, and Role Conceptions’ *Review of Public Personnel Administration* 1– 26 DOI: 10.1177/0734371X19888009 (with K. O’Connor and S. Janenova).



**Saltanat Janenova**, Assistant Professor.

**Peer-reviewed articles:** O'Connor, K., Knox, C., and Janenova, S. 2019. Bureaucrats, authoritarianism, and role conceptions. *Review of Public Personnel Administration* (Q1 journal).

Janenova, S. and Knox, C. 2019. Civil service reform in Kazakhstan: trajectory to the 30 most developed countries? *International Review of Administrative Sciences* (Q1 journal), 85(3): 419-439.

Janenova, S. and Knox, C. 2019. Combatting corruption in Central Asia: a role for ethics commissioners? *Public Administration and Development* (Q2 journal), online version in November. Knox, C. and Janenova, S. 2019.

The e-government paradox in post-Soviet countries. *International Journal of Public Sector Management* (Q2 journal), 32 (6): 600-615. Janenova, S. 2019.

The boundaries of research in an authoritarian state. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* (Q2 journal), 18: 1-8. Janenova, S. 2019.

Public Administration Academies in Central Asia: 'government puppets' or independent seats of learning? *Teaching Public Administration*, online version in November.

O'Connor, K., Janenova, S., and Knox, C. 2019. Open Government in authoritarian regimes. *International Review of Public Policy*, 1(1): 65-82.

Knox, C. and Janenova, S. 2019. Public sector reforms: One Stop Shops to digital government. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, Oxford University Press, pp.1-20.

**Book and book chapters:** Nair, B., Janenova, S., and Serikbayeva, B. 2019. *A Primer on Policy Communication in Kazakhstan*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Maltseva, E. and Janenova, S. 2019. The politics of pension reforms in Kazakhstan: pressures for change and reform strategies.

In *Social Policy, Poverty and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and The Former Soviet Union*, CROP International Poverty Studies, Ibidem Verlag: Stuttgart. Editor(s) - Sofiya An; Tatiana Chubarova; Bob Deacon; Paul Stubbs. Baimenov, A. and Janenova, S. 2019.

Civil service development in the former Soviet Union countries: an emergence of a new model? In *Public Service Excellence in the 21st Century* (pp.105-143), Palgrave Macmillan, Editor(s) – Alikhan Baimenov and Panos Liverakos.

**Notes:** The Pivot book 'A Primer on Policy Communication in Kazakhstan' is accessible in three languages (English, Kazakh and Russian) and widely disseminated among ministries and akimats, local universities, and practitioners.



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.

Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs **Colin Knox** and Dr. **Saltanat Janenova** attended the IASIA-KTU conference: "Corruption, Ethics and Culture in Public Administration" on 23 - 27 April 2019, Kaunas, Lithuania and presented a paper: Public Service Ethics in Central Asia.

The IASIA is an entity of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). It is an association of organizations and individuals whose activities and interests focus on public administration and management.

Professor **Omer F. Baris**' joint-project with S. Gupta and E. Araral from LKY School was awarded the Social Science Research Thematic Grant at the National University of Singapore.

Professor Omer Baris participated in the Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association in Atlanta, Georgia in January 2019.

Prof Baris was a discussant in the panel on Growth Efficiency & Finance.

The joint paper by Prof Omer Baris with S. Gupta and S. Saksena with the title "Environmental Enforcement and Compliance in Developing Countries: Evidence from India" has been accepted for publication in World Development.



# School's Specific Achievements 2019

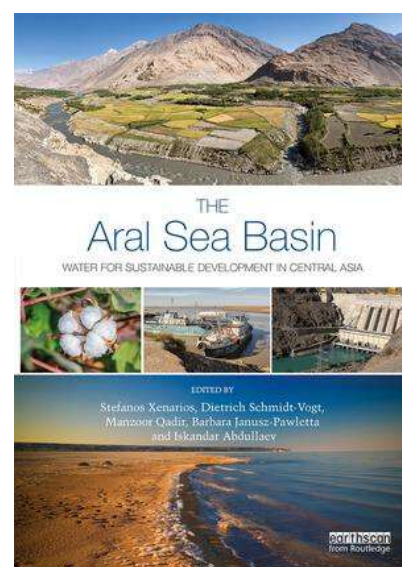
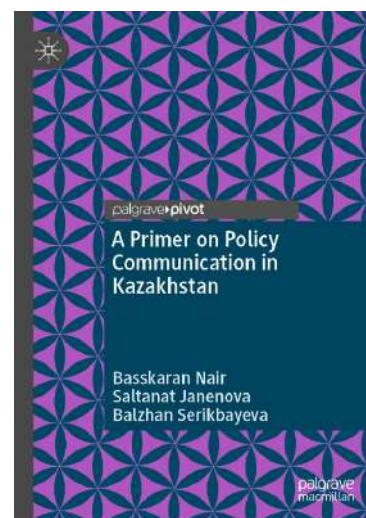
In 2019 **NU GSPP** received formal accreditation from the **European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA)**.

GSPP launched a **book** written by the group of scholars from Nazarbayev University and LKYSP on November 12, 2019: **Basskaran Nair, Saltanat Janenova, GSPP Assistant Professor, Balzhan Serikbayeva, GSPP PhD student**. More than 50 people from public sector, private sector and media visited the book presentation. Gani Nygymetov, Head of Domestic Policy department and Altai Kulginov, Mayor of Nur-Sultan attended the book launch.

**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.

**GSPP Dean Weng Tat Hui** signed a Student Exchange Agreement between **Nazarbayev University** and the **KDI School of Public Policy and Management** of the **Korean Development Institute (KDI)**. The Student Exchange Agreement was signed at a ceremony hosted by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management which is a graduate school of policy studies founded in 1997 with the support of the Korean government. It is the educational arm of the Korean Development Institute (KDI) which is ranked as the top think tank in Asia and 5th worldwide among non-US think tanks and 20th worldwide. With the signing of the Student Exchange Agreement, GSPP plans to send up to 2 students to KDI School in the Fall semester.

*European Association  
for Public Administration  
Accreditation*





# GSPP Students Achievements 2019

27 MPA and 22 MPP students graduated in 2019.

6 students from GSPP started their exchange semesters in Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), Renmin University of China and KDI School of Public Policy and Management in South Korea.

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. Bakhytzhan 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. Bakhytzhan has presented a research paper on Open Government in Central Asia: Evidence from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



## GSPP Students Achievements 2019



GSPP welcomed exchange students from LKYSPP, Francesco Brusaporco from Italy and Saruul Khatanbaatar from Mongolia.

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.

MPP 2018 and exchange students from LKYSPP held the first student-run event for GSPP, GSE and GSB alumni and students.



# GSPP Students Achievements 2019

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. 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.



GSPP students Arailym Taibassarova, Nargiz Dautova, Almagul Tapayeva, Temirlan Yergaziyev, Diana Kabdusheva took part in the 2019 NASPAA-Batten International Simulation Competition hosted by the KDI School.

GSPP MPA student Kamila Tuyakbayeva delivered training on gender equality and leadership for NU students. This event was organized by Unisex and supported by E.Quality Club of Nazarbayev University, supported also by the US Embassy in Kazakhstan. In November, Kamila Tuyakbayeva, MPA student participated as representative from Kazakhstan at the Y-Peer Youth Summit in Nairobi.





# CONTACTS

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