

Power and Space in Kyrgyzstan, 1924-2024
Власть и пространство в Кыргызстане, 1924–2024 гг.

Date: 17 April 2025, **Time:** 15:00-18:20

Venue: OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Conference room.

Address: 1A Botanicheskiy pereulok, Bishkek

Language: English/Russian (In-person)

Description

‘Land and Power in Kyrgyzstan, 1924-2024’, is an international research project co-delivered by Dr Alun Thomas (University of Staffordshire, UK), and Dr Stephan Rindlisbacher (European University Viadrina, Germany). The project is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Curiosities Award.

‘Land and Power’ has two overlapping aims:

1. Produce an outline of the political history of Kyrgyzstan, 1924-2024, focusing on territorialisation. Using local archival holdings, the project will trace changes in Kyrgyzstan’s internal borders as a means of analysing changes in the field of power; the frequent alterations to the USSR’s administrative-territorial structure always implied a reallocation of resources like pasturage and water for use by the local population. The project will assess how reallocations differed between Kyrgyzstan’s diverse communities. The findings will substantiate a theoretical analysis of how contemporary Kyrgyzstan should be conceptualised today. The resulting argument, which engages with core controversies in English-language Central Asian Studies today, will be made in an article submitted to *Past & Present*.
2. Build Kyrgyzstan into an interdisciplinary network of scholars investigating patterns of state power in mountainous regions across the globe. This network will be constructed via two workshops. The resulting international community will build new connections between CAS and other regions, such as African, Central European, and Latin American Studies.

‘Land and Power’ will form the basis of a larger, longer-term project on mountainous states in comparative perspective, with special emphasis on power, territory, and political change. This larger project will improve understandings of mountainous regions today, including some of the problems they face, such as climate change. Thomas and Rindlisbacher will devise an AHRC Standard Research Grant bid to support this next stage of their work. A deeper analysis of Kyrgyz history will be central to this new proposal, with ‘Land and Power’ having provided the outline framework.

About the organizers

Stephan Rindlisbacher (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany) is a postdoc historian specialising in Eurasian history. In his current projects, he focuses on national policies of the early Soviet state and their implementation in regional administration. However, he is also interested in the history of terrorism, political commemorative culture as well as in the history of

Russian and Soviet money. Prior to this, he worked as teaching assistant at the History Department of the University of Bern.

Alun Thomas (University of Staffordshire, UK) is currently Associate Professor of Eurasian Studies, specialising in the modern history and contemporary affairs of Central Asia and Russia. To date, his research has focused mainly on the historical confrontation between mobile pastoralism and the modern bureaucratic state. His first monograph, *Nomads and Soviet Rule: Central Asia under Lenin and Stalin*, was awarded the Alexander Nove Prize by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) in 2018.

**WORKSHOP PROGRAMME /
ПРОГРАММА СЕМИНАРА**

15:00	Reception / Приветствие
15:15-15:20	OPENING REMARKS/ ОТКРЫТИЕ Dr. Pal Dunay , Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek
15:20-15:40	Dr. Alun Thomas/ Др. Алан Томас (Staffordshire University, UK / Стаффордширский Университет, Великобритания) <i>Map the Mountains, Rule the Peaks/ Картировать горы, править вершинами</i> Dr. Stephan Rindlisbacher/ Др. Штефан Риндлисбахер (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany / Европейский университет Виадрины, Франкфурт-на-Одере, Германия) <i>A Spatial Analysis of State Power at Altitude / Пространственный анализ государственной власти на высоте</i>
15:40-15:50	Discussion / Дискуссия
15:50-16:20	Coffee Break
16:20-17:10	Timur Ryskulov/Тимур Рыскулов (Institute of History and Ethnology named after Ch. Valikhanov, Almaty / Институт истории и этнологии имени Ч. Валиханова, Алматы) <i>Казахи Кыргызстана в XX-XXI веках: история и судьбы</i> Zuhra Altymyshova/Зухра Алтымышова (Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, Bishkek/ Кыргызско-Турецкий Манас Университет, Бишкек) <i>Some Consequences of Collectivization in Soviet Kyrgyzstan / О некоторых последствиях коллективизации в советском Кыргызстане</i>
17:10-17:20	Break / Пауза
17:20-18:10	Aida Kubatova/Аида Кубатова (NAS KR, Bishkek / НАН КР, Бишкек) <i>Образование Кара-Кыргызской автономной области 1924 г. как фактор этнического самосознания и идентичности</i> Amantur Japarov/Амантур Джапаров (NAS KR and IFEAC, Bishkek / НАН КР и Французский институт исследований Центральной Азии, Бишкек) <i>Governing pastures in Soviet Kyrgyzstan, 1960s-1980s / Управление пастбищами в Советском Кыргызстане в 1960-1980-е годы</i>
18:10-18:20	CLOSING / ЗАВЕРШЕНИЕ