

**Authors' workshop on the forthcoming book**

**“Climate Change and decarbonization in Central Asia”**

**Date:** 16 December 2021, 14:00 – 18:15 (GMT+6, Bishkek time)

**Venue:** OSCE Academy and Zoom Webinar

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99110646412>

**Google calendar:** <https://bit.ly/osceNUI>

**Language:** English/Russian (Russian option is provided for Zoom participants only)

**Organizers:** OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUI)

**Description**

Despite Central Asia being one of the world's most climatically vulnerable regions, there is a large literature gap related to climate change impact and policy in the region. Therefore, the OSCE Academy and NUI are planning to publish an open access book with contributions from leading international scholars to improve knowledge and create an impetus for future research. The book will cover a broad range of related issues including climate change impact on security, energy, politics, gender, mining and many others.

During the workshop authors of the forthcoming book will present the detailed outlines of their chapters. The aim of the workshop is to receive feedback for presented chapters from the authors community and general audience.

The OSCE Academy and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUI) invite researchers, policymakers, practitioners, journalists, and all interested parties to attend the workshop “Climate change and decarbonization in Central Asia” on December 16th, 2021. The event offers both in-person and online participation options for those who RSVP in advance.

**14:00 - 14:05**      *Opening remarks*

**Dr. Alexander Wolters** (in person)  
Director, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

**14:05 - 14:35**

*Concepts, frameworks, timeline, and peer-review: – Climate change and decarbonization in Central Asia*

**Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (in person)**

Editor, Post-Doc Researcher, OSCE Academy

**Prof. Indra Overland (online)**

Co-editor, Research Professor, Head of Center for Energy Research, NUPI

***Q&A Session***

**14:35 - 16:05**

*Presentation of the proposed book chapters*

**Moderator:**

**Rahat Sabyrbekov (in person)**

Lead Editor, Post-Doc Researcher, OSCE Academy

### **Section 1: Impact of Climate Change in Central Asia**

- Anne Sophie Daloz: Climate change impacts on Central Asia  
CICERO
- Suzy Blondin: Mobilities and Climate Change in Central Asia: tackling the vulnerability of the mobility infrastructure and transport-related pollution, Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel

### **Session 2: Society and Climate Change**

**Moderator:**

**Roman Vakulchuk (in person)**

Co-editor, Senior Researcher, NUPI

- Karina Standal, Anna Sophie Dalos, Elena Kim: The Climate Change and Gender Nexus in Kyrgyzstan
- Aliya Tskhay: Recycle, re-use, and reduce culture: Eco-activism and entrepreneurship in Almaty, University of St Andrews

**16:05 - 16:30**

Coffee - Break

**16:30 - 18:00**

### **Section 2: Society and Climate Change (con'd)**

- Filippo Costa Buranelli: The institution of Environmentalism in Central Asia, University of St Andrews

### **Section 3: Future Policies and Opportunities**

**Moderator:**

**Indra Overland** (online)

Co-editor, Research Professor, Head of Center for Energy Research, NUPI

- Alisher Mirzabaev: Climate change science and policy in Central Asia: Future perspectives, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn
- Gulim Abdi (in person) & Nurkhat Zhakiyev: Decarbonization opportunities and Carbon pricing instruments in Central Asia Astana IT University

**18:00 - 18:15**

*Closing remarks*

## About Organizers & Speakers

**OSCE Academy in Bishkek** (<https://www.osce-academy.net/>) is a public foundation, established in 2002 between the Kyrgyz Government and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Academy promotes the principles and values of the OSCE through post-graduate education, professional training and intellectual exchange. Moreover, the Academy hosts Research Fellowships, as well as publishes articles, policy briefs, and research papers on questions relevant to the Academy's mission.

**The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)** has about 80 employees, including part-time positions and guest researchers. The institute is organised in four research groups that reflect NUPI's thematic core competences. NUPI's Centre for Energy Research is an interdisciplinary research centre covering international relations and economic issues related to the field of energy. The centre was originally established as the Energy programme in 2006, and brings together researchers from different parts of NUPI working on energy issues. The centre's objective is to be a forum for analysis of international energy issues, as well as Norway's role on the international energy arena. It is to function as a meeting place for international actors working on energy related questions, and to facilitate debates on international energy policies.

**Indra Overland** is Research Professor and Head of the Center for Energy Research the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). He previously headed the Russia and Eurasia Research Group at NUPI and has worked on Central Asia since 2001. He completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge in the year 2000, followed by a three-year post-doctoral project on Central Asia and the South Caucasus. He has carried out fieldwork in all Central Asian states and has been responsible for cooperation between the OSCE Academy in Kyrgyzstan and NUPI since 2007. Every year he teaches MA students from all Central Asian countries on energy issues and hosts 4-5 Central Asian students in Norway. He is (co)author of 'Caspian Energy Politics' (Routledge), 'China's Belt and Road Initiative through the Lens of Central Asia' (Routledge) 'Kazakhstan: Civil Society and Natural Resource Policy in Kazakhstan' (Palgrave), 'Renewable Energy Policies of the Central Asian Countries' (CADGAT). Indra Overland strives for policy relevance in his research and has been cited the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Associated Press, Bloomberg, BBC World Service, Al Jazeera, CBC, The Guardian, The Telegraph, Times Literary Supplement, Forbes, El País, Le Point, Hokkaido Shimbun, Toronto Star, Het Financieele Dagblad, Straits Times, Al Bawaba, Japan Times, Wall Street China, Azernews, Vietnam+, Nang Luong Sach, Dat Viet, Radio Free Europe, Politiken, Psychology Today, Carbon Brief, PV Magazine, Europower, Phys.org, The Diplomat, Eurasianet, Conway Bulletin.

**Roman Vakulchuk** is Senior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo and holds a PhD degree in Economics from Jacobs University Bremen in Germany. He specializes in Central Asia and Southeast Asia and his main research interests are economic transition, trade, energy, climate change, and investment policy. Vakulchuk has served as project

leader in research projects organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the Global Development Network (GDN), the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and others. In 2018, he worked as governance expert for OECD's mission in Kazakhstan and advised the government on privatization reform. In 2013, Vakulchuk was awarded the Gabriel Al-Salem International Award for Excellence in Consulting. Recent publications include 'Seizing the Momentum. EU Green Energy Diplomacy towards Kazakhstan' (2021), 'Discovering Opportunities in the Pandemic? Four Economic Response Scenarios for Central Asia' (2020), 'Renewable Energy and Geopolitics: A Review' (2020).

**Rahat Sabyrbekov** received his PhD from School of Economics and Business at Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He obtained his Master's degree from University of Birmingham, the United Kingdom. Rahat serves as an author for Intergovernmental Platform for Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Assessment Report. Rahat's research interests include environmental economics, ecosystem services, natural capital, and natural resource management. Dr. Sabyrbekov teaches Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources course at the OSCE Academy. [The Google Scholar link.](#)

**Alisher Mirzabaev** is a senior researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn. Before joining ZEF, he was an economist with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). Dr. Mirzabaev was a Coordinating Lead Author of the Chapter on Desertification of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. He is currently co-leading the cross-chapter paper on "Deserts, semi-arid areas and desertification" under the IPCC Working Group 2. Dr. Mirzabaev was a lead researcher in several international projects with both global and regional focuses on Africa and Asia. He has a PhD Degree on Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn, Germany. His research interests include climate change impacts and adaptation, economics of land degradation and ecosystem restoration, and water-energy-food security nexus.

**Aliya Tskhay** is a Research Fellow at the School of Management at the University of St Andrews, United Kingdom. She holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of St Andrews. Dr Tskhay's research focuses on the study of the global energy sector with the focus on the net-zero targets, carbon-negative technologies, and energy transition. She also studies regional integration processes in Eurasia, and provides extensive commentaries on the international cooperation in the region. Dr Tskhay published a monograph 'Global '

**Anne Sophie Daloz** is a climate scientist at CICERO, Norway. Her work relies on the analysis of climate data from observations to climate models outputs. She has worked on a variety of regions and processes such as Central Asia or Europe, and tropical cyclones, snowfall, clouds or precipitation. She also has a strong interest in connecting climate sciences to other disciplines.

**Elena Kim** (she/her/hers) is a professor of Social Sciences at the American University of Central Asia, Bishkek Kyrgyzstan. Elena's teaching, research and activism focus on intersecting issues of gender, international development, violence, and gender politics in Central Asia. Her publications include chapters in several books and articles including the *Violence against Women*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Gender, Technology and Development*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Rural Society*, and *Women and Therapy*.

**Fabienne Bossuyt** is associate professor at and coordinator of the Ghent Institute for International and European Studies at the Department of Political Science at Ghent University (Belgium). She is also co-director of the Russia Platform of Ghent University. In addition, she is a professorial fellow at UNU-CRIS and an associate researcher at EUCAM. Her main area of expertise is the EU's relations with Central Asia. Her most recent research projects focus on various aspects of the EU's relations with and policies towards Central Asia and other post-Soviet countries, including development policy, human rights promotion and connectivity. She has published articles in, among others, *Democratization*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, *East European Politics & Societies*, and *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. She has recently co-edited two books, namely "Principled Pragmatism in Practice: The EU's Policy towards Russia after Crimea" (Brill) and "The European Union, China and Central Asia. Global and Regional Cooperation in A New Era" (Routledge). In the past few years, she has also acted as rapporteur for the EU Special Representative to Central Asia.

**Filippo Costa Buranelli** is Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of St Andrews and is currently Chair of the English School section at the International Studies Association. His interests include International Relations theory, international history, global governance, Eurasian politics, and comparative regionalism. His research has been published in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Politics*, *Geopolitics*, *International Relations*, *Central Asian Affairs*, and *Problems of Post-Communism*, among several other outlets. He is currently editing a forum on the politics of informality and global governance for *International Studies Review* and serves as expert advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy on the establishment of an Italy-Central Asia consultation mechanism in the field of scientific cooperation.

**Karina Standal** is a human geographer working on energy, gender and development. Her main research interests are within the fields of political and development geography, with a specific focus on decentralized renewable energy systems, electrification, sustainable energy consumption and gender relations. Her geographical focus covers Norway, South Asia and Central-Asia. She has fieldwork experience from Norway, India, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

**Matteo Fumagalli's** research interests lie at the intersection of the study of identities, ethnic conflict and violence and the politics of natural resources. I have conducted research in the post-

Soviet space (especially Central Asia and the South Caucasus) and East Asia (esp. Myanmar, Laos, South Korea, and Bangladesh). Over the years my research has developed along identities, diasporas and conflict in the post-Soviet space, particularly in Central Asia and the Caucasus; energy, mega-projects and climate change

**Morena Skalamera** is Assistant Professor at Leiden University and an associate at the Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School. She teaches courses in international political economy, with a regional focus on Russia and Eurasia. Her research interests include the political economy of Eurasia, Russian and post-Soviet Politics, and the Geopolitics of Energy in Eurasia. Dr. Skalamera has spent extensive time conducting field research in post-Soviet Eurasia, especially in Russia and Central Asia, and in Turkey. Her current writings focus on issues of identity politics, exploring the particular interplay between international and domestic factors in policy making, and contemporary state-market relations with a focus on energy policy dynamics in Russia and Central Asia. She is currently working on a book manuscript that examines how energy firms have shaped the energy relationship between Russia and Europe and the energy strategies of the former Soviet states.

**Suzy Blondin** has received her PhD in geography from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in 2021. Her doctoral dissertation examines im/mobilities to, from and within Tajikistan's Bartang Valley and the way rural-urban mobilities help the Bartangis to remain and to preserve intimate bonds with their Valley despite pressing environmental risks and economic vulnerabilities. Her research also brings forward the issue of involuntary immobility caused by frequent hazard-related road closures and low motilities, which threatens local livelihoods. Her work has been published in *Mobilities*, *Geoforum* and the *Central Asian Survey*.