

**Expert Roundtable:
Public diplomacy in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia: Local actors, global actions**

- Date:** October 19, 2022
- Time:** 14:00-18:00 Bishkek time OSCE Academy in Bishkek, 3rd Floor, Conference room (hybrid format.)
- Language:** English and Russian (translation will be available for online participants)
- Organizers:** OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Dr. Aijan Sharshenova
- Moderator:** Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, OSCE Academy in Bishkek
- Registration link:** <https://forms.gle/gbPkzkyLt8uDjRE47>
TBC In-person attendees must register by Oct 12, 2022
Online attendees must register by Oct 18, 2022
- Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95982578418>

Abstract

Public diplomacy (also known as second track diplomacy or people's diplomacy) has become an integral component of foreign policies of virtually all states in the age of universal digitalisation and social media communications. Public diplomacy has two basic strands: nation branding or cultural communications targeted at foreign civilian public, and political advocacy targeted at decision makers in foreign countries.

This half-day long expert roundtable brings together qualified speakers from public sector and academia to discuss public diplomacy efforts in Central Asia with a focus on Kyrgyzstan. Based on a selection of experts and practitioners in foreign policy, public diplomacy and soft power, this roundtable aims to spark a discussion on the varieties, formats and contents of global public diplomacy efforts by Central Asian actors. The key purpose of this workshop is to increase awareness and understanding of soft power and public diplomacy's implementation by Central Asian countries.

The roundtable is held in the framework of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program "Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on the Political System, Economy and Society in Central Asia and Caucasus". The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a 3-year project jointly run by Bielefeld University and Technical University Dortmund and supported by Volkswagen Foundation. In addition to supporting a total of twelve fellows and their research projects, the project includes an academic and professionalization program to accompany the individual projects. All this has been designed to provide a solid foundation for future cooperation and partnerships between universities and other institutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as in Germany and Europe.

Invitation

The OSCE Academy invites researchers, policy stakeholders and all interested parties to attend the expert round table "Public diplomacy in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia: Local actors, global actions" on October 19th, 2022. The event will be conducted offline for a limited number of

participants (up to 30), who RSVP in advance. It will also be transmitted online with simultaneous English or Russian translation via zoom platform.

Agenda

14:00-14:15 Opening remarks Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director, OSCE Academy

14:15-15:45 Panel I: Public diplomacy of Kyrgyzstan: The practical experience

- Dr. Edil Osmonbetov, the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Prof. Nazira Momosheva, Kyrgyz National University

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Panel II: Public diplomacy of Central Asia: The big picture

- Dr. Nafissa Insebayeva, the Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project
- Dr. Sabina Insebayeva, Nazarbayev University.
- Prof. Timur Dadabaev, University of Tsukuba
- Dr. Nargiza Muratalieva, Cabar Asia, and Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

17:45-18:00 Closing remarks

About Organizers & Speakers

The roundtable is held in the framework of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program "Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on the Political System, Economy and Society in Central Asia and Caucasus". The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a 3-year project jointly run by Bielefeld University and TU Dortmund University and supported by Volkswagen-Foundation. In addition to supporting a total of eleven fellows and their research projects, the project includes an academic and professionalization program to accompany the individual projects. All this has been designed to provide a solid foundation for future cooperation and partnerships between universities and other institutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as in Germany and Europe.

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.

Bielefeld University (<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/uni/profil/>) was founded in 1969 with an explicit research assignment and a mission to provide high-quality research-oriented teaching. With around 25,000 students, the University currently encompasses 14 faculties. As a 'Volluniversitat' (full university), it offers a differentiated range of disciplines in the humanities, natural sciences, technology as well as in medicine.

The Volkswagen Foundation (<https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de>) is an independent foundation incorporated under private law with registered office in Hanover. Since 1962, the Volkswagen Foundation has allocated more than 5.5 billion euros in support of over 33,000 projects. It is thereby one of the largest common benefit foundations under private law in all of Germany. The Volkswagen Foundation perceives a special mission in providing support for junior researchers and fostering cooperation between researchers across the borders of disciplines, cultures, and national states.



Dr. Aijan Sharshenova is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Dr. Sharshenova holds a PhD in Politics awarded at the University of Leeds, UK. Prior to joining the OSCE Academy, Dr. Sharshenova has worked at the UN and UNDP country offices in the Middle East. Dr. Sharshenova's current research project is on Russia's soft power and public diplomacy in Central Asia.



Dr. Edil Osmonbetov is an advisor to the National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. Chairman of the Board of the Kyrgyz Council on International Relations and Security. He authored programs on TV and radio on geopolitics, international relations and world politics on Maral TV, Kabar, Birinchi Radio. He is also a

senior lecturer at the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy on the basics of international security and arms control.



Dr. Nafissa Insebayeva specializes in Kazakhstan's domestic politics, development cooperation and international development strategies. She currently serves as a Researcher at the Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project (NipCA) and Senior Advisor at the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID).



Dr. Nargiza Muratalieva is an editor of CABAR.asia analytical reports. She is an Associate Professor of the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. Dr. Muratalieva completed a research internship at Oldenburg University, Germany. She is an author of the monograph "Russia and China in Central Asia", co-author of about 10 monographs, and author of more than 50 analytical articles in online and peer-reviewed publications, and a member of several research projects.



Dr. Nazira Momosheva is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of History and Area Studies, Kyrgyz National University n/a Jusup Balasagyn. Her research interests include International Relations, Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Policy, relations between EU and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Main publications:

The EU strategy for Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan foreign policy. Justus -Liebig-Universität Giessen, Zentrum für Internationale Entwicklungs- und Umwelt-forschung), # 52, 2010.

Integration in Central Asia / В кн: Central Asia Today: Countries, Neighbors, and the Region/Eds. S.Jonbobojev, M. Rahimov, R. Seidelmann. Gottingen: Cuvillier. Pp.289-302

Relations between Kyrgyzstan and the EU in the context of the European Strategy (2007-2013) Институт Европейской политики. - Берлин, 2014.

Dynamics, Problems, and Perspectives of the Relations between Kyrgyzstan and the EU (1992-2014) / В кн:Central Asia: Issues, Problems, and Perspectives/ Eds. S. Jonbobojev, M. Rahimov,

R. Seidelmann. – Gottingen: Cuvillier, 2015. – 213-236 pp.

Кыргызстандын тышкы саясатынын калыптанышы жана өнүгүшү/ В соавт. с Ормушевым

А.С., Закировым М. // Кыргызстандын тарыхы. Энциклопедия. 3 тт. – Б., 2016. – Т.3. – С.

543-581.



Dr. Sabina Insebayeva is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Nazarbayev University since 2022. She is concurrently a research associate at the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where she also was a postdoctoral research fellow (Identities Cluster). Prior to joining Nazarbayev University, Dr. Insebayeva worked as an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Science, the University of Tsukuba (Japan) and as a researcher affiliated with the Nippon Foundation Central Asia-Japan Human Resource Development Project (NipCA). Previous positions also include research fellowships with the IERES at the George Washington University (USA) and the Georg Eckert Institute (Germany). Dr. Insebayeva is a former Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Scholarship holder. In addition to these fellowships, her research has been supported by a number of non-governmental and governmental institutions in the United States, Japan, China, Singapore, Norway and Germany. Dr. Insebayeva studies issues related to identity politics, power relations and security in Central and East Asia, and is particularly interested in approaches rooted in social theory and historical sociology. She has published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Europe-Asia Studies* (Taylor & Francis), *Nationalities Papers* (Cambridge University Press), *International Journal of Refugee Law* (Oxford University Press).



Dr. Timur Dadabaev is a Professor of International Relations and the Director of the Special Program for Japanese and Eurasian Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tsukuba, Japan. He published extensively with *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *The Pacific Review*, *Europe Asia Studies*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Asian Survey*, *Asia Europe Journal*, *International Journal of Asian Studies*, *Inner Asia*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Asian Affairs*, *Strategic Analysis*, *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, *Cambridge Journal of Eurasian Studies*

and others. His latest monographic books are *Decolonizing Central Asian International Relations: Beyond Empires* (Oxon: Routledge, 2021), *Transcontinental Silk Road Strategies: Comparing China, Japan and Korea in Uzbekistan* (Oxon: Routledge, 2019), *Chinese, Japanese and Korean In-roads into Central Asia* (Policy Studies Series, Honolulu: East-West Center 2019), *Japan in Central Asia: Strategies, Initiatives, and Neighboring Powers* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan 2016) and *Identity and Memory in Post-Soviet Central Asia* (Oxon: Routledge, 2015). His edited volumes include *The Grass is Always Greener? Unpacking Uzbek Migration to Japan* (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan: Life and Politics during the Soviet Era*, (Co-edited with Hisao Komatsu), NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 and *Social Capital Construction and Governance in Central Asia: Communities and NGOs in post-Soviet Uzbekistan* (Co-edited with Yutaka Tsujinaka), NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

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