

Asiac yearly conference 2022

with a special, multidisciplinary section dedicated to the topic of

“The City in Central Asia and the Caucasus”

University of Bergamo,
1-2-3 December



*Sant'Agostino Complex,
Hall no.1 "Walter Fornasa"
Piazzale Sant'Agostino no.1 - 24129 Bergamo*



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

Department
of Letters, Philosophy,
Communication

OACC
OSSERVATORIO ASIA
CENTRALE E CASPIO

In collaboration with

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The yearly conference of the Association for the study in Italy of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Asiac) aims to foster the scientific dialogue between scholars working on these areas, from Italy as well as from abroad. This year, the conference will host a special section dedicated to the topic of “The City in Central Asia and the Caucasus”, in which contributors explore urban centers through the lens of history, linguistics, sociology, politics, literature, art, or urban studies.

ASIAC yearly conference 2022 is organised by the Association's board of directors (Daniele Artoni, Aldo Ferrari, Carlo Frappi, Fabio Indeo, Gabriele Natalizia, Elisabetta Ragagnin, Anna Sirinian, Paolo Sorbello, and Vittorio Tomelleri) in cooperation with Michele Brunelli, University of Bergamo. The conference is realized with the support of Geopolitica.info.

The registration to the conference is mandatory to be enabled to attend the Virtual Sessions. For registering to the conference, please send an email to info@asiac.net specifying your name/surname and affiliation before November the 29th 2022.

The time of each session is set according to the Rome time zone (GMT+1).



Thursday, December 1st

8:45 - Registration

9:00 - Opening of the conference

9:15 - Cities and Identities in Uzbekistan

Chair: **Paolo Sorbello**, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Nikolaos Olma, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin

Exploring the Politics of Urban Vegetation in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Yulduz Mahmasobirova, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent

City diplomacy of Tashkent: is there a chance for a restoration?

Angelo Francesco Carlucci, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim Üniversitesi

Folk Islam in contemporary Central Asia: the case of Bukhara

Olga Khan, Chung-Ang University, Seoul

Image of Women in Post-Soviet Uzbek Cinema

10:45 - Coffee break

11:00 - Illiberal politics and Identity in the Caucasus

Chair: **Giorgio Comai**, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa

Vincenzo Zenobi, Independent researcher

National Identity and Urban Development. Notes on three capitals of South Caucasus

Laura Pogliani, Polytechnic University of Milan

Baku A City In Transition. Post-Socialist Financialization And Space Transformation

Laura Luciani, University of Ghent

Geopolitics of gender and sexuality in the EU-Russia neighbourhood: conceptualising activist struggles and resistance in Georgia and Armenia

Nino Khelaia, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, Tbilisi

Discourses on right-wing politics in Georgia - analyzing the case of illiberal protest

Konstantine Eristavi, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, Tbilisi

Political Terror and 'Economic Freedom' in Georgia - Necessary Connections

12:45- Lunch

14:00 - Conflict and Identity in the Caucasus

Chair: **Carlo Frappi**, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Leonardo Zanatta & Marco Alvi, Corvinus University, Budapest & University of Bologna

Assessing water (ir)rationality in disputed regions: Nagorno-Karabakh in the aftermath of the 44 days war

Simona Scotti, Topchubashov Center, Baku

The Joint Russian-Turkish Monitoring Centre in the framework of Türkiye's security policies in Karabakh

Thijs Korsten, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena

Thinking the Caucasus after Bourdieu: Heteronomy and Heterogeneity in the Social Lives of Security Professionals in Georgia and Armenia

Cesare Figari Barberis & Leonardo Zanatta, Geneva Graduate Institute & Corvinus University, Budapest

Trapped Between Conflicting Feeling Rules: The Ambiguous Case of Russians Living in Georgia During Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

15:30 - Coffee break

15:45 - Lexicon and Linguistics

Chair: **Elisabetta Ragagnin**, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Zaal Kikvidze, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Kutaisi

Laz Lexical Specimina from K. H. E. Koch's Travelogue

Velizar Sadovski, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

Evidence for Indo-Iranian mythologemes and ritual phraseology in Parthian and Armenian mytho-poetic and onomastic tradition

Andriy Danylenko, Pace University, New York

The Old Kyivan Town of Тьмutorокань: Historiographic and Linguistic Underpinnings

Paolo Ognibene, University of Bologna,

The Nameless Son of Wyrzymæg

Emine Sahingöz, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main,

How to write in Ossetic: The History of Ossetian writing systems

17:45 - End of session

18:00 - Asiatic Association Meeting (in Italian)

Friday, December 2nd

9:00 - Kazakhstan Cities as Symbols of Socioeconomic Challenges

Chair: **Fabio Indeo**, OACC

Paolo Sorbello, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Atyrau, the Oil Capital that isn't

Temirtas Iskakov & Assel Yeszhanova, Fading.TSE & Urban Forum Kazakhstan
Astana Architecture as a State Tool

Mereilim Kalen, Friederich Ebert Stiftung

"Ädil Qala" - Social justice and just development of the cities in Kazakhstan

10:15 - Coffee break

10:30 - Kazakhstan Politics and Identity

Chair: **Paolo Sorbello**, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Serik Orazgaliyev, Nazarbayev University, Astana

Spaces and places: can social media platforms substitute public sphere in Kazakhstan?

Alberto Frigerio, Almaty Management University

Kazakhstan in the Multiverse of the 21st Century: Six Dilemmas to Draw its Future Path

Gaziza Shakhanova, University of Economics and Business, Prague

Kazakhstan's Reflections on Two Ukrainian Cases (the 2014 Crimea Annexation and 2022 War in Ukraine)

Guldana Khamzina, Nazarbayev University, Astana

Comparative Case Studies of National Identity Narratives: How History is Taught in Central Asia

12:00- Coffee break

12:15- (Re-)Claiming the right to the city: Urban activism in Central Asia

Chair: **Serik Beimenbetov**, Kazakh-German University, Almaty

Emil Nasritdinov, AUCA, Bishkek, *Reclaiming the Right to the City: Urban Activism in Bishkek*

Shugyla Kilybaeva, Al-Farabi State University, Almaty, *Contesting the City: Urban Grassroots Initiatives in Almaty*

Dina Sharipova, Nazarbayev University, Astana, *“Concrete jungle”: Urban activism in Nur-Sultan*

Hikoyat Salimova, Independent researcher, *Urban activism in Tashkent: Grassroots Mobilisation in Limited Civic Spaces*

Saodat Olimova, SHARQ (ORIENS) Research Centre, Dushanbe, *Urban Change and Civic Activism in Dushanbe*

15:30 - Cultural and material heritage

Chair: **Daniele Artoni**, University of Verona

Stefan Williamson Fa, Lund University

The City of Ardabil and its Influence on Translocal Muslim Devotion

Jonas Löffler, University of Cologne

Popular Music in Tiflis/Tbilisi around 1900: Between Cosmopolitanism and the Nation

Ana Cheishvili, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris

Cultural transfer between France and the Caucasus through the work of Jules Mourier

Elene Gogiasvili, Tbilisi State University

Horsewomen in Georgian Folktales

Anna Tozzi di Marco, Independent researcher

The tangible heritage of jāme čelel kelid and Panj- tan, a research in progress in Teheran and Isfahan

Francesco Mazzucotelli & Nairi Mercadanti, University of Pavia & Independent researcher

Fashioning the Armenian city in Lebanon: Anjar as a microcosm of Lebanese–Armenian identity

17:30 - End of session

17:45 - Screening: **Tomiris Batalova**

I'm not mad, I'm nomad

18:30 - End of session

Saturday, December 3rd

9:00 - Current Challenges in Central Asia

Chair: **Giulia Sciorati**, University of Trento

Irina Chernikh, Kazakh-German University, Almaty

Gender Aspects of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programs for Returnees from Syria and Iraq (the Case of Central Asian Countries)

Caterina Re, University of Genoa

The post-Soviet and post-nuclear environment in Central Asia: an ecocritical reading of Chingiz Aitmatov, Hamid Ismailov and Andrei Volos

Marat Kappasov, Bogdanovka General School

Marmot hunting as a trade among the Kazakhs: history and modernity

10:15 - Coffee break

10:30 - Three Dimensions of China's Engagement with Central Asia:
Institutions, Tech and Security

Chair: **Paolo Sorbello**, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Giulia Sciorati & Eva Seiwert, University of Trento & Friedrich Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg

Looking at Protests and Revolutions in Contemporary Central Asia Through the Eyes of China: A Discourse Analytical Approach

Jasmin Dall'Agnola, OSCE Academy, Bishkek

Chinese Information Communication Technologies in Central Asia

Fabio Indeo & Frank Maracchione, OACC & University of Sheffield

China-Central Asia 1+5 format of regional cooperation according to a comparative perspective

11:45 - Coffee break

12:00 - Georgian Jews in the Urban Space

Chair: **Daniele Artoni & Elisabetta Ragagnin**

Lali Guledani, Ilia State University, Tbilisi

The Role of Jews in the Urbanization of Modern Surami

Cira Janjgava & Ani Kvirikashvili, Tbilisi State University & Ilia State University, Tbilisi

Documentation of the Speech of Tbilisi Jews and Language of Tbilisi

Tamari Lomtadze & Salome Gumberidze, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Kutaisi

The Significance of Judeo-Georgian for the Study of Urban Language

13:30 - End of session