

The conference takes place at Sciences Po
Centre d'études et de recherches internationales (CERI)
56 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris
Conference room (ground floor)

Online registration:

<http://www.sciencespo.fr/ceri/evenements/#/?lang=fr&id=2940>

Information:

CERI: <http://www.sciencespo.fr/ceri/evenements/>

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Access by metro:

Line M4 – Station Saint-Germain-des-Près

Line M12 – Station Rue du Bac

Simultaneous translation French / English

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Protest in Bishkek: <http://relaxedfocus.blogspot.com/2010/04/kyrgyzstan-uprisingprotestriot-pics.html>

Map of the USSR: <http://savok.name/uploads/maps/big/4.jpg>



French Institute for
Central Asian Studies

Paris, 14-15 October 2014

SOCIAL MOBILISATIONS & GEOPOLITICS IN CENTRAL ASIA



CERI, 56 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris
Conference room

Online registration

The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989 symbolises in the collective memory the end of communism. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this historic event, the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI) at Sciences Po Paris and the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC) organise a two-day international conference to look at the social mobilisations that occurred in Central Asia during the year 1989 and explore their causal relationship with current geopolitical changes in the post-Soviet area.

Rationale of the Conference

Many analysts assert that the independence of Central Asian republics is the unexpected and unprepared consequence of the dissolution of the USSR in December 1991. Yet from early 1989, several warning events took place in the region: the defeat and withdrawal of the Soviet army from Afghanistan in which a large number of Central Asians took part; the demonstrations against nuclear testing in Kazakhstan; the growing awareness of the drying of the Aral sea and its ecological and health consequences; the outbreak of violent ethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley; the people's discontent about forced Russification and the lack of status for their languages, etc. The conference proposes to take a new look on many of these topics.

Meanwhile, the 2014 Ukrainian crisis has revealed the role regained by Russia in its 'near abroad'. Firstly this is the economic relationship between Russia and Europe and its implication for the former Soviet republics: Eastern Europe (Ukraine and Belarus) as a transit zone, but also Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan) as a region of oil and gas production. This is also the cultural role that Russia plays through its unconditional support to cross-border Russian and Russophone minorities. The Russian diaspora – the largest one in the world since the collapse of the Soviet Union – is not only settled in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Central Asia is home to millions of Russians and Russian speakers, who might be more sympathetic to the renewed interest of Russia for its subjects abroad. This is eventually the political role that Russia intends to play in the world, particularly by means of regional organisations such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (which includes most of the republics of ex-USSR), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (Russia, China, Central Asia) and the Eurasian Union which was officially launched in Astana on May 29, 2014 by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

One Conference, Two Research Axes

➤ *Take a new look on social mobilisations that took place in Central Asia*

On the eve of 1989, public claims and collective actions were common practice in the five Central Asian republics: protests to ban nuclear tests in Kazakhstan, regrouping of Afghanistan's veterans into active associations, creation of cultural centres to promote ethnic minorities, etc. In terms of linguistic demands, 1989 was especially marked by the adoption of a series of laws on Language, granting for the first time in Soviet history the status of 'State language' to local idioms. These laws represent both a symbolic step forward and a legal progress in the promotion of national identities. The conference will analyse in a comparative perspective the content and forms of these demands in Central Asia. In particular it will assess the legacy of the Soviet legislation in today's language policies and practices of the five independent states. How did it impact education policies? What status is granted to minority languages, in particular the Russian language, and which role do minority languages play in post-Soviet Central Asian societies?

Alongside, in those late Soviet days, a series of ethnic violence took place in various regions of Central Asia: Ferghana (Uzbekistan), Batken (Kyrgyzstan) and Novy Uzen (Kazakhstan) in 1989, Osh and Uzgen (Kyrgyzstan) in 1990. Recent conflicts in Southern Kyrgyzstan and Eastern Tajikistan echoed the year 1989, but these historical tensions remain understudied due to the impossibility, at the time, to have access to the contentious area. The conference will review the origins and developments of the 1989-1990 ethnic conflicts and will question in broader perspective the relationship between nation-building and ethnicity in Central Asia.

➤ *Analyse the impact of these mobilisations on current geopolitics of Central Asia*

The Russian intervention in Georgia in 2008 to protect its 'compatriots from abroad' and the annexation of Crimea in 2014 disrupted the geopolitical balance that prevailed in the post-Soviet area since the collapse of the USSR. Yet it would be excessive to limit these momentums to a neo-imperialist shift of Russia. In the past 25 years, its 'near abroad' has actually experienced various social movements, whose driving forces arose precisely in 1989 and on which Russia relies today to justify the right to intervene in its neighbours' domestic affairs.

This second axis aims at exploring the evolution of social and political claims in Central Asia over the past 25 years with a view to understand, on the one hand, issues which are currently sensitive for the countries of the region, such as the marginalisation of the Russian population, the increase of social and economic disparities, the growing instability in Afghanistan, etc. It also aims at evaluating which assets could positively foster regional stability, for instance the exploitation of mineral resources, the development of Chinese investment or the influence of the Turkish model of Islamic democracy. Weighing up these threats and opportunities, can one predict whether Central Asia will undergo or not a Russian military intervention in near future? And if so, what will be its social and political motivations?

MARDI 14 OCTOBRE 2014	
8:45	Accueil des participants
9:00	Ouverture du colloque
9:15	<p>(1.1) DE LA PERESTROIKA AUX INDEPENDANCES. LES EVOLUTIONS SOCIALES DE L'ASIE CENTRALE <i>FROM PERESTROIKA TO INDEPENDENCES. SOCIAL CHANGES IN CENTRAL ASIA</i></p> <p>Modérateur: Gilles FAVAREL-GARRIGUES, CNRS/CERI-Sciences Po, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emil NASRITDINOV, AUCA, Kirghizstan, Philipp SCHROEDER, Humboldt, Germany Territory and youth: the gangs of Bishkek and their transformation in the 1980s-1990s. • Markus GÖRANSSON, Aberystwyth, Grande-Bretagne Tajikistan and the ambiguous impact of the Soviet-Afghan War. The political mobilisation of Afghan War veterans in 1989.
10:45	Pause-café
11:00	<p>(1.2) MOBILISATIONS ET IDENTITES COLLECTIVES <i>MOBILISATIONS AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES</i></p> <p>Modératrice: Elise MASSICART, CNRS/CERI-Sciences Po, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karlygash ABIYEVA, CERI-Sciences Po, France Les pratiques linguistiques au Kazakhstan. De l'époque soviétique à l'indépendance • Catherine POUJOL, INaLCO, France Les Juifs de Boukhara. Une mobilisation sociale exogène. • Taline TER-MINASSIAN, INaLCO, France Un regard comparatif : la mobilisation nationale arménienne à Erevan.
13:00	<p>Déjeuner au restaurant « Au Saint Benoît » Diffusion du documentaire <i>La Nouvelle Pénélope</i> (Gabrielle Chomentowski, CERI)</p>
14:30	<p>(1.3) L'ETHNICISATION DES MOBILISATIONS. DE LA REVENDICATION SOCIALE AU CONFLIT ETHNIQUE <i>ETHNICISING MOBILISATIONS. FROM SOCIAL CLAIMS TO ETHNIC CONFLICTS</i></p> <p>Modératrice: Nadège RAGARU, CNRS/CERI-Sciences Po, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivier FERRANDO, CERI-Sciences Po, France & IFEAC, Kirghizstan La politisation des minorités ethniques d'Asie centrale au tournant des indépendances. • Dina SHARIPOVA & Gulnara DADABAYEVA, KIMEP, Kazakhstan Novy Uzen in 1989. Interethnic clashes or economic nationalism. • Parviz MULLODJANOV, Tadjikistan February 1990 riots in Tajikistan. Who was behind the scene? Review of main existing versions
16:30	Pause-café
16:45	<p>CONFERENCE PLENIERE / KEYNOTE LECTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonela CAPELLE-POGACEAN, CERI-Sciences Po, France Mobilisations populaires en Roumanie (1989-1990).

MERCREDI 15 OCTOBRE 2014	
9:30	<p>(2.1) JEUX POLITIQUES ET GEOPOLITIQUES EN ASIE CENTRALE <i>POLITICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL GAMES IN CENTRAL ASIA</i></p> <p>Modératrice : Anne De TINGUY, CERI-Sciences Po & INaLCO, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John HEATHERSHAW, Exeter, Grande-Bretagne Rising powers, conflict management and State formation in Central Asia. • Adrien FAUVE, CERI-Sciences Po, France Entre publicité et promotion de l'autoritarisme : le Kazakhstan ou la fabrique d'une image globale. • Askar DUZENOV, ENA & Institut d'orientalisme, Kazakhstan Un regard géopolitique sur le Kazakhstan à la lumière des événements en Ukraine. • Shairbek JURAEV, OSCE Academy, Kirghizstan Political regimes and foreign policy making in Kyrgyzstan.
12:00	<p>Buffet : CERI, salle Jean Monnet Diffusion du documentaire <i>Nevada-Kazakhstan</i> (Gabrielle Chomentowski, CERI)</p>
13:00	<p>(2.2) MIGRANTS ET POLITIQUES MIGRATOIRES ENTRE ASIE CENTRALE ET RUSSIE <i>MIGRANTS AND MIGRATORY POLITICS BETWEEN CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA</i></p> <p>Modératrice: Kathy ROUSSELET, CERI-Sciences Po, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madeleine REEVES, Manchester, Grande-Bretagne Living from the nerves: deportability, indeterminacy and the feel of law in migrant Moscow. • Anne LE HUÉROU, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, France Les « diasporas » d'Asie Centrale à Omsk : entre tentative de gestion déléguée des flux migratoires et contrôle social • Oleg KORNEEV, Sheffield, Grande-Bretagne La réinvention de la gouvernance migratoire par les organisations internationales: le cas de l'Asie centrale
15:00	Pause-café
15:15	<p>(2.3) LES ACTEURS REGIONAUX : UNION EUROPÉENNE, CHINE, IRAN, TURQUIE <i>REGIONAL ACTORS : THE EU, CHINA, IRAN, TURKEY</i></p> <p>Modérateur : à confirmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olga Alinda SPAISER, CEE-Sciences Po, France Quel rôle pour l'UE en Asie centrale ? • Antoine MAIRE, CERI-Sciences Po, France Le dilemme chinois en Mongolie, en développement économique et sécurité nationale. • Mohammad-Reza DJALILI, IHEID, Suisse L'Iran en Asie centrale : grande ambition, succès limité. • Bayram BALCI, CNRS/CERI-Sciences Po, France Entre ambitions et réalisme, l'évolution de la politique turque en Asie centrale depuis la fin de l'ère soviétique.
17:45	Observations finales / Conclusion

A Jointly-Organised Conference

This conference is organized by three French research centres:

- The [Centre for International Studies and Research](#) (CERI) at SciencesPo in Paris is the leading research institution on international affairs and area studies in France. Among others, its [Research Group on Central Asia](#) (GRAC) conducts a research seminar and organises regular scientific events exploring contemporary Central Asia.
- The [French Institute for Central Asian Studies](#) (IFEAC) in Bishkek is part of the worldwide network of research centres funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of human and social sciences. The IFEAC organises seminars, conferences and summer schools with its Central Asian partners and publishes academic books and the journal [Cahiers d'Asie centrale](#) with contributions in French and English.

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Programme Committee

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