Seventh Annual OASIES Graduate Student Conference
Hinge of the World: Connections, Networks, and Linkages in Inner Eurasia

Saturday, March 29, 2014
International Affairs Building (Room 1512)
Columbia University

9:00  Breakfast, provided by the Middle East Institute

9:30 – 11:00  Panel I: Education Policy and Reform Across Eurasia

Shyla Dogan (Teachers College, Columbia University)
*Turkey’s North Caucasian Diaspora: Challenges of Cultural and Linguistic Preservation*

Ben Schwab (Teachers College, Columbia University)
*The Role of the Open Society Institute in the Implementation of the Bologna Process in the Republic of Armenia*

Amy Crompton (Teachers College, Columbia University)
*Donor Involvement in Educational Planning in the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan*

Discussant: Amra Sabic-El-Rayess (Teachers College, Columbia University)

Chair: Brinton Ahlin (Anthropology, New York University)

11:00-12:00  A Conversation about the Intellectual Potential of Kazakhstan

Aleftina Golovchun (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)
Gulmira Sultanbayeva (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)
Elmira Sultanbayeva (Turan University)

Discussant: Gulnar Kendirbai (History, Columbia University)

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch, provided by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

1:00 – 2:00  “Learning to Live with Ignorance: What a Non-Specialist Can See”

Keynote Talk by Andrew Baruch Wachtel
President of the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

2:00 – 3:30  Panel II: Narratives of Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Context

Yulia Rimsky (Economic and Political Development, SIPA, Columbia University)
*Youth Organizations in the National Integration Processes of Transitioning Democracies: A Case of Ukraine*
Grazvydas Jasutis (Harriman Institute, Columbia University)
*Simmering Nationalism Across the Post-Soviet Space: The Case of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict*

Diana Kudaibergenova (Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge)
*Punk Shamanism, Revolt and Break Up of Traditional Linkage: The Waves of Cultural Awakening in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan*

Discussant: Alan Timberlake (Slavic Department, Columbia University)

Chair: Ann Strachan (MESAAS, Columbia University)

3:30 – 5:00  Panel III: Transnational Civil Society and Security Concerns in Eurasia

Veronika Zablotsky (Feminist Studies, University of California-Santa Cruz)
*Implications of Armenian Diasporic Return in the 21st Century*

Alex Lord (International Relations, City College of New York)
*Migrant Workers and the Spread of HIV/AIDS: A Threat to National Security in Former Soviet States*

Sarrah Bechor (IARO Fellow, IREX)
*A Crisis in the Caucasus: The Wider Regional Implications of the Iranian Nuclear Crisis for Georgia and the South Caucasus*

Chair: Belle Cheves (Hagop Kevorkian Center, Near Eastern Studies, New York University)

5:00 – 5:30  Closing Remarks

Alexander Cooley
Professor of Political Science, Barnard College

5:30 – 6:30  Reception, provided by the Harriman Institute

Conference Committee:
Lauren Bisio, Belle Cheves, Ilke Denizli, Shyla Dogan, Chris Edling, Casey Michel, Owen Miller, Holly Myers, Ann Strachan, Kathryn Zehr

Sponsors:
Harriman Institute (Columbia University)
Graduate Student Advisory Council (Columbia University)
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (Columbia University)
Middle East Institute (Columbia University)
Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs at Teachers College (Columbia University)