



CESS 2018 Pre-Conference Workshops

Wednesday October 24, 1-5pm and Thursday October 25, 9am-1pm

The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) is pleased to announce our first annual pre-conference workshops. There is no charge to participate in the workshops as they are generously supported by a grant from Open Society Foundations and financial support from the journal Central Asian Survey. Each half day workshop includes one meal and one coffee break.

Descriptions of the workshops, the number of maximum participants for each workshop, the date/time, the eligibility criteria, and additional application materials required can be found below. All workshops will be held at the conference venue at the University of Pittsburgh. Please carefully read the descriptions and requirements for each workshop before applying.

To apply to participate, you must:

1. Submit an application form for each pre-conference workshop that you wish to attend. The form is at <https://tinyurl.com/CESSpreconfworkshop>;
2. For most of the workshops you must also submit additional application materials to the facilitator(s). Details can be found in the workshop descriptions below.

The pre-conference workshops are open to anyone who is registered for the 2018 CESS conference, however, where space is limited, priority will be given to Central Eurasian scholars for access reasons.

Supplementary travel grants funded by CESS for workshop attendance may be available for a limited number of Central Eurasian scholars. These will be allocated after the workshop participants are selected; there is no separate application process.

The closing date to apply AND to submit any additional required materials is August 3, 2018.

List of workshops (click to go straight to the description)

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Dissertation Grant Proposal Writing in Central Eurasian Studies

Date

Wednesday October 24, 1-5pm

Number of places

8

Facilitator(s)

Cynthia Werner, Professor & Department Head, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University

Description

Most PhD students who work in Central Eurasia need to obtain funding to support their research. This workshop will use active learning approach to help graduate students develop grant proposals. Learning how to write a well-crafted research proposal is both a skill and an art. Indeed, grant writing is one of the many skills that PhD students need to master in order to succeed in academia. Typically, a student needs to work through several drafts before they have a competitive grant proposal.

Students can learn about grant writing by reading an article or attending a lecture on grant writing. This workshop, however, employs a more active learning approach. Participants learn how to write a strong grant writing proposal by preparing a draft proposal, by reviewing other proposals, and by responding to feedback about their own proposal. This workshop thus provides a “low-stakes” opportunity for students to get feedback on their proposal from multiple peer reviewers. The facilitator will also provide detailed feedback, and help facilitate the conversation about each proposal. Each proposal will be discussed for approximately 25 minutes.

Eligibility criteria

All participants must:

1. Be enrolled in a PhD program;
2. Have plans to submit a proposal to an external funding agency within the next 6-12 months;
3. Have a draft proposal ready for circulation by September 15, 2018 (15-20 pages double spaced).

Additional application materials

Prospective participants should submit the following application materials to werner@tamu.edu by August 3, 2018 as a single PDF file:

1. A 1-2 page CV, indicating current institutional affiliation, contact details, and scholarly career;
2. A 2-page pre-proposal describing the research questions, potential contributions of the study to existing scholarly research, proposed research methods, and any preliminary research.

Selected applicants will be notified by August 15, 2018.

All participants are required to submit a draft proposal to the workshop organizer by September 15, 2018. (Participants who do not submit a proposal will be at risk of being replaced by individuals on a waitlist.) The proposal should be approximately 15-20 pages double-spaced. All proposals will be circulated electronically to all participants prior to the workshop.

All participants will be assigned as Reviewers for three of the proposals. As Reviewers, they will be expected to prepare detailed written feedback using a rubric system. The facilitator will use the same rubric to provide detailed written feedback for all eight proposals.

From Dissertation Chapter to Published Article

Date

Thursday October 25, 9am-1pm

Number of places

A maximum of 12 participants will be selected to ensure detailed engagement with each participant's work.

Facilitator(s)

Luca Anceschi, University of Glasgow/ Europe-Asia Studies and Madeleine Reeves, University of Manchester/ Central Asian Survey

Description

The half-day workshop will offer a platform for PhD candidates currently writing dissertations and early career scholars to receive detailed hands-on guidance from journal editors on turning dissertation chapters or article drafts into journal submissions of publishable quality in English language peer-reviewed Area Studies journals. Each participant will pre-circulate a dissertation chapter (max. 14,000 words) or a journal article draft for discussion at the workshop.

The workshop has three goals: (1) to provide an insight into the peer review and editorial process for a major peer-reviewed Area Studies journal; (2) to provide a forum for detailed editorial feedback on particular dissertation chapters/ journal drafts, and (3) to foster a sense of a community for early career scholars at a similar stage in their academic career, and to acquaint editors with works being undertaken by early career scholars with a view to facilitating future collaborations, conversations and scholarly interaction. These issues will be treated through plenary and small-group discussions in a small, friendly workshop environment ahead of the main CESS conference.

Eligibility criteria

1. Workshop participants should be PhD or Candidate of Science researchers at an advanced stage in their doctoral studies (after qualifying exams/ABD) or early career researchers within three years of submission of the PhD/Candidate of Science degree.
2. Each participant should commit to pre-circulating to other workshop participants a dissertation chapter or a draft journal article by October 1, 2018. The working language of the workshop is English and chapters/drafts should be submitted in English.
3. Preference will be given in the selection process to applicants, irrespective of citizenship, whose research affiliation is to an institution in Central Eurasia.

Additional application materials

Prospective participants should submit the following application package as a single PDF file by August 3, 2018 to casurveyeditor@gmail.com. Applicants should use 'CESS workshop application_SURNAME' in the subject line.

1. A 1-page CV, indicating current institutional affiliation, contact details, and scholarly career;
2. A 2-page draft of the dissertation project, including a 300-word abstract of the dissertation chapter or journal article draft to be submitted for workshop discussion;
3. A 1-page statement of motivation for taking part in the workshop, including an identification of particular aspects of the publication process that they would like to discuss in the workshop.

Research Ethics and Navigating the IRB for Qualitative Researchers

Date

Thursday October 25, 9am-1pm

Number of places

15

Facilitator(s)

Inna Molitoris, Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Assistant Professor of Business, Gainey School of Business, IRB Chair, Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Michigan, USA

Description

The goal for this workshop is to provide emerging researchers with the opportunity to learn about ethical issues in research that involves people. When a researcher plans to collect data from people, it is his/her responsibility to obtain voluntary agreements from the study participants and protect their rights for confidentiality. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, specifically Office for Human Research Protections and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) work to ensure that all investigators follow the U.S. federal agencies' regulations and requirements for ethical treatment of research participants.

All participants will be actively involved in learning activities. Learning atmosphere at the workshop will be welcoming, safe, and supportive. Interaction in small groups will allow each participant to contribute and be heard. The facilitator will use minimum lecturing and maximum guiding the discussions where the participants will share, discuss, exchange, question, brainstorm, and draw conclusions.

Eligibility criteria

Participants must be qualitative researchers to participate in this workshop. The facilitator will assume that all participants understand what qualitative research is, how to conduct such research, and have research projects for which they seek IRB approval or want to learn about research ethics and the IRB process.

Additional application materials

None required.

Field Safety & Research Ethics in Complex Settings

Date

Wednesday October 24, 1-5pm AND Thursday October 25, 9am-1pm

Number of places

15

Facilitator(s)

Jennifer Murtazashvili, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh & Annika Schmeding, Ph.D. Candidate, Boston University

Description

This workshop on field safety and research ethics in complex environments sets out to explore the shifting research conditions in which academics are engaged in Central Eurasia. As the CESS Field Safety Task Force report (2016) showed, conventional academic training in the social sciences and humanities often leaves students and faculty under-prepared for decision making in the complex and shifting realities that they face on the ground. This in turn can lead researchers to subject themselves, as well as their colleagues and interlocutors, to a range of risks, many of which are unanticipated.

The workshop is designed to exchange field research experiences between peers engaged in similar work and to discuss solutions that researchers have found – or are still in search for – through the presentation of scholarly papers on this topic. How do we navigate and engage multiple state and non-state actors in the field without jeopardizing the integrity of our data, our informants or ourselves? How does the presence of aid organizations, violent non-state actors, foreign actors, and militaries change and shape the perception on the ground of western researchers? What are responsibilities of researchers beyond the ‘do no harm’ principles? And how do these themes intersect with other characteristics such as gender, national/international/hybrid status, age, secondary roles outside of academia, etc.? Under what conditions should research engage with government partners in these environments? Are there differences between approaches researchers should take in authoritarian versus conflict-affected environments? How do these complex environments bias research questions and results?

We anticipate the papers will be published as a special edition of a peer-reviewed journal or an edited book volume.

Eligibility criteria

None specified.

Additional application materials

We welcome creative proposals related to any of the themes noted in the workshop description.

Prospective participants should submit a paper abstract of no more than 750 words to jmurtaz@pitt.edu by August 3, 2018.

If accepted, participants must submit their final paper by October 12 (two weeks before the workshop).

Re-thinking Authoritarianism in Eurasia

Date

Wednesday October 24, 1-5pm AND Thursday October 25, 9am-1pm

Number of places

10

Facilitator(s)

Diana T. Kudaibergenova Postdoctoral Fellow in Department of Sociology of Law, Lund University

Description

What is authoritarianism in the contemporary world? The 'Re-thinking Authoritarianism' one-day CESS pre-conference workshop aims to discuss changes, new definitions and debates about authoritarian regimes and the nature of contemporary authoritarianisms. The aim is to collect strong evidence and re-conceptualise what changes led to the emergence of new or rather re-invented authoritarianism. In our discussions, we want to raise questions about the nature of the most resilient and popular authoritarian regimes and their leaders as well as to critically assess the notions of hybrid regimes those "combining democratic and authoritarian elements" (Diamond 2002:167) and 'soft' and 'hard' authoritarianisms (Schatz 2009).

The discussion is not limited to the following key questions: What is contemporary authoritarianism? How and why did authoritarianism change in definitions since the end of the Cold War? What are hybrid regimes? Are hybrid regimes more authoritarian than democratic? Why are certain authoritarian regimes so resilient? Can we conceptualise a condition or contexts in which authoritarian regimes remain stable and uncontested? Do authoritarian regimes possess 'negative' or 'positive' legitimacy and how can we differentiate these different types? Legitimacy or legitimation for authoritarian regimes? What is the value of fear in authoritarian mechanism? What are the types of protests under authoritarian regimes? What are the effective methods of studying authoritarian regimes? How can one evaluate the popularity of the authoritarian regime? Are elections still a good measurement of democracy or authoritarianism?

Eligibility criteria

The workshop welcomes papers from everyone interested in conceptualising authoritarianism in the light of new economic threats of the regime stability, succession dilemmas and the challenges to the regimes brought by social media revolutions and 'digital civil society' models. We especially welcome interesting comparative perspectives from various historical, regional, cultural and political cases.

Additional application materials

We welcome all abstracts of no more than 750 words to be sent to Diana T. Kudaibergenova at creative.corazon@gmail.com or diana.kudaibergenova@soclaw.lu.se by the deadline of August 3, 2018.

All successful applicants will be notified by August 15th and will be required to submit draft papers by 15 September 2018 for the group discussion during the workshop.

Each participant will receive collegial feedback for further publication. Certain papers can be anonymised following a request from the author. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the workshop facilitator at the above email address/es.