

FORUM FOR UZBEK AND SILK ROAD STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

WESTMINSTER
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN TASHKENT
An Accredited Institution of the University of Westminster (UK)



Central Asia: 30 years of Independence – Challenges and Opportunities

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT)

University of Westminster in London (UoW)

November 17, 2021

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

AGENDA (Tashkent time)

10:00 – 10:30 Registration

10:45 – 12:00 Welcome Notes & Plenary Session
“Central Asia after 30 years of Independence”

Venue: IB201

- **Michael Clarke**, First Deputy Rector (Academic), WIUT (in-person)
- **Roland Dannreuther**, Director of the Forum for Uzbek and Silk Road Studies, UoW (virtual)
- **Peter Bonfield**, Vice-Chancellor, UoW (in-person)
- **H.E. Timothy Torlot**, British Ambassador to Uzbekistan (in-person)
- **Obid Khakimov**, Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (in-person)
- **Bakhrom Mirkasimov**, Rector, WIUT (in-person)
- **International video greetings for the Forum**

Link to join Opening Session virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701186573?pwd=L3ISRFNPeWFzRWdETDdPV1NRZFllcz09>

Meeting ID: 857 0118 6573

Passcode: 573065

12:15 – 13:30 Group Photo and Lunch

13:45 – 15:00 Session 1.1 (Law, Politics and Society):

Venue: IB201

Moderator: *Akbar Ismanjanov*, Law Department, Westminster International University in Tashkent

Panelists:

- *Farhod Karimov*, Associate Professor, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and *Jaafar El-Murad*, Emeritus, University of Westminster in London; “Does country-of-origin matter in the era of globalization? Evidence from cross sectional data in Uzbekistan” (in-person)
- *Shabir Ahmad Khan*, Director, Area Study Centre (Russia, China & Central Asia) University of Peshawar, Pakistan; “Uzbekistan's Role in Inter and Intra Regional Integration” (virtual)
- *Roland Dannreuther*, Professor, University of Westminster, UK; “Russia, China and Central Asian Integration” (virtual)
- *Filippo Costa Buranelli*, Senior Lecturer, University of St Andrews, School of International Relations, United Kingdom; “The Evolution of the Central Asian Regional Order” (virtual)

Link to join Session 1.1 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701186573?pwd=L3ISRFPeWFzRWdETDdPV1NRZFIldz09>

Meeting ID: 857 0118 6573

Passcode: 573065

Q&A and discussion

Session 1.2 (Business and Economics):

Venue: IB215

Moderator: *Jamshid Normatov*, Economics Department, Westminster International University in Tashkent

- *Salim Turdaliev*, PhD Candidate, Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Czechia; “Increasing Block Rate Electricity Pricing and Propensity to Purchase Major Home Appliances: Empirical Evidence from a Natural Experiment” (virtual)
- *A K M Kamrul Hasan*, Senior Lecturer, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Bangladesh; “Central bank digital currency (CBDC) and its impact on the operations of Islamic Banks: Central Asian perspective” (in-person)
- *Filippo Maria Margheritini*, Recent graduate student, University of St. Andrews, Italy; “Natural resources and Multivectorism in Kazakhstan: the cases of Italy and Japan” (virtual)
- *Erdogan Ekiz*, Senior Lecturer, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Management and Marketing Department, Uzbekistan; “An Overview of Tourism and Hospitality Industries in Uzbekistan: A SWOT Analysis Approach” (in-person)

Link to join Session 1.2 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89805102917?pwd=bTBtdFc1SHgzbdVdnFnN3hmZHBzZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 0510 2917

Passcode: 371376

Q&A and discussion

Session 1.3 (Education and Development / Science, Technology and Innovation):

Venue: IB216

Moderator: *Aziz Holmatov*, Global Education Department, Westminster International University in Tashkent

- *Janar Abuova*, Senior teacher, Yeosu Technical Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; “Development of the Soft CLIL for the future perspectives of IT Schools in the territory of Uzbekistan” (virtual)
- *Asror Nigmonov*, Sessional Instructor, University of New South Wales, Australia; “Entrepreneurship and Social Welfare Among the Post-Soviet Countries of Central Asia” (in-person)
- *Dildara Gapparova*, Lecturer, Westminster International University in Tashkent, “Creativity and Risk in Advertising in Uzbekistan” (in-person)
- *Khilola Ruziboeva*, Lecturer, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; “The effect of education level on Economic Growth? In the case of Uzbekistan using Listening to Citizens of Uzbekistan” (in person)

Link to join Session 1.3 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81216757019?pwd=Tm4rNVVJL01ESDNEaFR5RCs5TGVPUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 1675 7019

Passcode: 218152

Q&A and discussion

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:00 Session 2.1 (Law, Politics and Society):

Venue: IB201

Moderator: *Khasan Sayfutdinov*, Law Department, Westminster International University in Tashkent

Panelists:

- *Paradorn Rangsimaporn*, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, and independent researcher, Royal Thai Embassy in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Thailand; “Uzbekistan and Southeast Asia: Exploring the Opportunities for Strengthening Relations” (in-person)
- *Fabio Indeo*, Senior Analyst on Geopolitics in Central Asia, Nato Defense College Foundation, Rome, Italy; "Central Asia: new trends of connectivity and regional integration" (virtual)

- *Gerda Wielander*, Associate Head - LAS – ER, UoW, United Kingdom; “China in Uzbekistan: an investigation into the effects of BRI on trade, migration, and Chinese language education” (virtual)
- *Zabikhulla Saipov*, Independent Researcher, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan; “Evolution of Washington’s Strategic Goals in the Countries of Central Asia” (in-person)

Link to join Session 2.1 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701186573?pwd=L3ISRFPeWFzRWdETDdPV1NRZFIldz09>

Meeting ID: 857 0118 6573

Passcode: 573065

Q&A and discussion

Session 2.2 (Business and Economics):

Venue: IB215

Moderator: *Vincenzo Alfano*, Economics Department, Westminster International University in Tashkent

- *Nargiza Alimukhamedova*, Course Leader, Westminster International University in Tashkent, CERGE-EI, Prague University of Economics and Business, and *Nurmukhammad Yusupov*, Academic Coordinator, Solbridge International School of Business; “Financial literacy and the cost of borrowing: evidence from unregulated microfinance industry” (in-person / virtual)
- *Angelo Battaglia*, Senior Lecturer, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; “Uzbekistan 2022: from an Historic Review to a Tourism-Recovery Challenge after the Covid-19 pandemic” (virtual)
- *Surayyo Kushbakova*, Lecturer, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan; “Renewable energy, development and implementation: Uzbekistan and across Central Asia countries” (virtual)
- *Ahliddin Malikov*, Course Leader, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; “Central Asian Integration: Obstacles and Opportunities” (in-person)

Link to join Session 2.2 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89805102917?pwd=bTBtdFc1SHgzbdVdnFnN3hmZHBzZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 0510 2917

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Q&A and discussion

Session 2.3 (Education and Development / Science, Technology and Innovation):

Venue: IB216

Moderator: *Khikmatullo Urazbaev*, Global Education, Westminster International University in Tashkent

- *Andrew Linn*, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Head of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Westminster, and *Anastasiya Bezborodova*, PhD Student LAS (School of Humanities) University of Westminster, United Kingdom; “Establishing the conditions for ‘optimal’ English-Medium Education: Evidence from Uzbekistan and the Silk Road region” (virtual)
- *Sarvinoz Mamadjonova*, Master of Science in Accounting and Finance, Tashkent Institution of Finance and Binary Graduate School, Uzbekistan; “Is Female Higher Education Our Weak Point?” (virtual)
- *Daphne Economou*, Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster in London; “Learning Sign Language Combining Game Theory, Video and VR Technology” (virtual)
- *Nozimakhon Uralova*, EFL Teacher, Yeosu Technical Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; “The development of social pragmatic competence through alternative assessment in CLIL and non-CLIL classrooms” (virtual)
- *Etenesh Asfaw*, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Policy Research and Outreach at WIUT, Uzbekistan; “Gender Equality in Independent Uzbekistan” (in-person)

Link to join Session 2.3 virtually:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81216757019?pwd=Um4rNVVJL01ESDNEaFR5RCs5TGVPUT09>

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Q&A and discussion

17:15 – 17:30 Closing Remarks