

EURUS E-Newsletter

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Uzbek Government Delegation Visits Carleton

The Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University, in collaboration with the Clayton H. Riddell Graduate Program in Political Management, was pleased to host a roundtable on **“Parliamentary Development in Uzbekistan and the Canadian model”** on April 17, 2013. This roundtable featured members of the Legislative Chamber of the National Assembly (Oliy Majlis) in Uzbekistan, who visited Canada from April 15 until April 22. The delegation of Uzbek Parliamentarians was comprised of:

- Diloram Tashmukhamedova, Speaker, Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan;
- Abdugafor Mamatov, Chairman, Committee on the Issues of Science, Education, Cultural and Sport of the Legislative Chamber;
- Alisher Akramov, Member, Committee on Agriculture and Water Management of the Legislative Chamber;
- Shavkat Teshayev, Member, Committee on Budget and Economic Reforms of the Legislative Chamber; and
- Dilorom Fayzieva, Member, Committee on International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Legislative Chamber.

As reforms progress in Uzbekistan, knowledge exchanges to various established Western democracies, such as Canada, provide the Uzbek government with insight into how these established democracies have stabilized their political systems. Therefore, the purpose of this visit to Canada as highlighted by Speaker Tashmukhamedova’s speech was to experience firsthand and learn how a stable democracy, like Canada, functions. Through the exchange of ideas over the course of the week, the Uzbek delegation hoped to apply this knowledge in Uzbekistan. Additionally, the Uzbek delegation indicated that their visit to Canada would be helpful in intensifying Canadian-Uzbek parliamentary cooperation.

During the question and answer period, the Uzbek delegation responded to questions from the audience centered around the large issues facing Uzbekistan, namely the environmental degradation of the Aral Sea and the impact this has on relations with neighbouring countries as well as on domestic agriculture. Overall, the Uzbek delegation, during Speaker Tashmukhamedova’s speech and in the question and answer period, pointed out how much our two countries can learn from each other, and the value of maintaining Uzbekistan’s good relations and cooperation with Canada.

All those in attendance were granted the unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the ongoing process of democratic development in Uzbekistan from the perspective of Uzbek Parliamentarians.

Spotlight On: EURUS Student Giovanna Roma

The European economic crises have shed light on a variety of structural problems within European Member States. Administrative corruption has been one of the gravest of these problems, since this phenomenon can impede any reform from being effective. This is why, as part of a series of structural reforms designed to stabilize the Italian economy, Mario Monti passed an anti-corruption law in November, 2012. Giovanna’s proposed thesis looks at the factors that affect the policy transfer and implementation (PTI) of Italy’s new anti-corruption legislation to two Italian regions.

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Giovanna believes it would be interesting to focus her study on the regional level of Italian government, especially since many of the legal obligations of the new law seem to fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the regions. Moreover, Giovanna hopes her study will generate implications for EU-level policy and integration at large and that her findings may provide a footing for future projects.

In order to compile her research, Giovanna will embark on an exciting year-long research journey to Italy, participating in two enriching university programs: (1) the Programma Ponte at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas, and (2) a university exchange with LUISS Guido Carli, both in Rome. Giovanna would like to offer her sincerest thanks to all those who have offered their continued support and made this upcoming research trip possible, particularly all EURUS faculty and staff, Carleton's Centre for European Studies, and the Italian team at Carleton's School of Linguistics and Language Studies.

EURUS Student Matt Ferguson to Spend Summer 2013 in Kyrgyzstan

One of the greatest opportunities that I have come across since joining EURUS in September is the chance to travel to another country to study and learn a new language. This summer, with financial assistance from the Magna Fund for Russian Studies, I will be travelling to Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia along with several of my colleagues to participate in the Russian Language Study program at the London School in Bishkek. While there, we will be able to take the time to explore Kyrgyz culture and history amidst our studies, which is one of the most exciting aspects of the trip. The language training is essential to engaging primary sources for our respective research, with the added benefit of being immersed into multiethnic Kyrgyz society.

What sets my trip apart from the others' is that I will also be doing archival and national library research for my Research Essay while I am in Bishkek. My study focuses on Kyrgyz relations with Russia, America, and China, and how the country has been able to leverage lucrative contracts from major powers in exchange for utilizing Kyrgyzstan's geopolitical and strategic location. Over the summer I hope to be able to engage with government documents through the Kyrgyz National Library, and work with sources and people that are available to me only through this exciting trip.

My first year with the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies has been nothing but rewarding and enjoyable, and I fully expect this trip to enhance my experiences for next year because of the knowledge I will gain. I have no doubt that my Research Essay will be enriched by my experiences in Kyrgyzstan, and I would recommend that anyone travel to their area of study through the amazing opportunities available to them through the department, including the Magna Fund.

Carleton Hosts Russia-Islam Conference

On March 8, 2013, Carleton was pleased to host the "Muslims in Russia, the CIS, and Canada: Cohabitation and Cooperation" conference with sponsorship from the Valdai Discussion Club and the Magna Fund for Russian Studies. The issues debated throughout the day included the commonalities and differences among Muslim communities in Canada and Russia, as well as problems of integration into the legal frameworks of both countries. The conference brought together experts from Carleton University, the University of Toronto, the Russian Academy of Science, and Kazan State University, along with members of the Muslim community in Ottawa.

By the end of the conference, the Russian participants concluded that some features of the Canadian approach to integrating Muslims provided positive lessons for their own experience. Moreover, the themes that emerged over the course of the day highlighted the issues that exist with regard to integrating Muslim communities into the respective legal frameworks and societies of Canada and Russia. This academic forum demonstrated that two northern countries, far from Islamic centres, have an opportunity to set an international example of cultural and religious cooperation and enrichment.

The day after the conference, participants in the panels were invited to the Ottawa Main Mosque to learn more about Islam in Canada. Imam Delic graciously answered any questions his guests had, and spoke at length about how the Muslim community has grown in the Ottawa area. He addressed many diverse issues from the building of the mosque to current community activities, to challenges facing the Muslim community.

Overall, the conference was well attended by Canadian government officials, representatives of Embassies, and faculty and students from across Carleton, including EURUS MA students Jason D'Amour and Kim Dillon, who remarked:

Jason:

"The conference, "Muslims in Russia, the CIS and Canada," presented in part by EURUS might have been controversial, as it was intended to address how Muslims interacted within a 'Western society.' However, the panel of speakers, coming from Canadian, Russian, and various Muslim perspectives demonstrated the inaccuracy of that sentiment. Among the most interesting panelists was the engaging Bosniak-Canadian Imam, Zijad Delic, who reasoned that loyalty and belonging should not be an issue, as there were European Muslims in Canada at the time of Confederation. Also interesting was Carleton University's own Farhang Rajaee, who discussed the philosophy of modern Islamic thought and how ideas can create our misunderstandings. Overall, the conference was a tremendously interesting experience, and I am delighted to have had it at our Carleton University."

Kim:

"The Russia-Islam conference was enlightening in hopefully the least western sense of the word. Islam is not one monistic entity – instead, it morphs and shifts depending on whether the discussion centers around the political or the religious aspect. Either form changes drastically depending on which country, region and level of acceptance is being discussed."

New Book from the Centre for European Studies focuses on the current economic crisis in Europe:

Economic Crisis in Europe: What it Means for the EU and Russia, edited by EURUS faculty members Joan DeBardeleben and Crina Viju, appeared with Palgrave Macmillan in February 2013. This volume explores both the 2008-09 financial crisis and the subsequent Eurozone crisis from the viewpoint of its consequences, both politically and economically, for the EU and Russia. The book resulted from a conference hosted by the Centre for European studies, which was supported by a grant from the European Union. In addition to the Introduction and Conclusion, written by the editors, the volume includes the following Carleton contributions:

Joan DeBardeleben (EURUS, Carleton) and Mikhail Zharebstov (Political Science, Carleton), "Economic Crisis, the Power Vertical, and Prospects for Liberalization in Russia"

Crina Viju (EURUS, Carleton) and W.A. Kerr (University of Saskatchewan), "Do the Rules of International Trade Constrain Protection? Global Recession and EU Trade Policy"

Piotr Dutkiewicz (Political Science, Carleton) and G. Gorzelak (University of Warsaw), "The 2008-09 Economic Crisis: Consequences in Central and Eastern Europe"

Jon H. Pammett (Political Science, Carleton) and Lawrence LeDuc (University of Toronto), "The Electoral Impact of the 2008 Economic Crisis in Europe"

Congratulations to EURUS graduates!

Congratulations to EURUS MA students who graduated already this year and who will be graduating this summer:

WINTER 2013 CONVOCATION

Adriane Cartmell

The Ombudsman: A Russian Case Study

Colin Hickman

Diplomats on Skates: A Historical Analysis of Hockey in the Soviet Union from 1954 to 1987

Rhys McGaw

A Community Apart: A Critical Evaluation and Analysis of Internally Displaces Persons Settlement Policy in Azerbaijan

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Numan Qardash

Democratization in Kyrgyzstan and Leading Factors of the Two Uprisings in 2005 and 2010

SPRING 2013 CONVOCATION

Amy Fallis

The Debate over a Centre against Expulsions: Locating Memory in Germany, Poland, and Europe

Anca Gurzu

A Failed Attempt at EU Asylum Harmonization: The Case of the Supranational Safe Country of Origin List

Jacob Karas

Evaluating Remedial-Secession in the Wake of the ICJ Kosovo Advisory Opinion

Drazo Kraishnik

Gazprom and the EU's Third Energy Package: The End of Russia's Natural Gas Monopolization in the EU?

Jennifer Linehan

Fukushima to Fessenheim: France and Germany's Policy Responses to the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, 11 March to 18 June 2011

Christopher Manor

Making Peace: An Analysis of Russian Peacekeeping Doctrine and the Missions to Transnistria and Abkhazia in the 1990s

Julie Pickering

Constructed Narratives: EU Actorness in EU-China Relations

Andrew Remen

Moving Forward, Moving Apart: Democracy and Legitimacy during the Breakup of Czechoslovakia

Ian Thiesson

Russian Foreign Policy under Dmitry Medvedev from 2008-2012: Implications for the Arctic and Arctic IGOs

Mia Vukojevic

Humanitarian Action and Intervention: Tools in the Same Toolbox?

Summer Module: EURR 5108: Canada-EU Relations

For EURUS students looking to take a course over the summer, EURR 5108: Canada-EU Relations offers an opportunity to acquire a credit in just two weeks. This graduate seminar is dedicated to examining Canada-EU Relations. The course explores theories and arguments that lie at the heart of transatlantic relations. Special emphasis is paid to the history and governance of the European Union. Particular attention is paid to aspects of the EU, such as institutional organization, as they affect Canada. This course challenges students to give equal consideration to the role of actors and institutions beyond the nation-state.

This edition of the EURUS e-newsletter was compiled by Amy Fallis, MA2

EURUS website: www.carleton.ca/eurus

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