

# T02P15 / Realities of Public Policy and Management Reforms in Central Asia

**Topic :** T02 / Comparative Public Policy sponsored by Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

**Chair :** Saltanat Janenova (Nazarbayev University)

**Second Chair :** Colin Knox (Nazarbayev University, Graduate School of Public Policy)

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The panel is aimed at analyzing various public administration reforms in the Central Asia region (including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan). Political transformation over the recent decade has re-shaped the geopolitical landscape in the Eurasian region and created new challenges for future development of Central Asian countries. There is a shortage of academic research on this region, hence, this panel aims to improve scholarly knowledge on policy analysis and practices in Central Asia. The recent global economic crisis has increased the importance of good governance and the capacity of the government bodies to design, implement and evaluate public policies. The governments of Central Asian countries have attempted to transfer “best” international practices from all parts of the world and introduced various socio-economic and political reforms with varying degrees of success. This panel seeks to analyze whether the governments of Central Asian countries have been able to overcome Soviet legacies, adopt international practices to the local context, and meet new global social, economic and political challenges.

The panel invites papers on various aspects of the public policy and management reform processes in any of the Central Asian countries with a particular focus on civil service and public sector reforms, including labor and welfare relations, migration, education, economic and budgetary policies. Regardless of their theoretical and/or analytical point of departure, papers are expected to draw significantly on original empirical research. A selection of the accepted papers will be considered for potential publication in a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal. This panel is interdisciplinary and will combine international and regional scholars from Central Asian countries who represent different academic traditions and institutes.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

This panel invites abstracts for papers addressing issues broadly in the spheres of civil service and public management reforms in Central Asian countries. The panel aims to bring together international and regional scholars from Central Asian countries analyzing civil service and public administration reforms, including labor and welfare relations, migration, education, economic and budgetary policies. Regardless of their theoretical and/or analytical point of departure, papers are expected to draw significantly on original empirical research. It is expected that papers will analyze and discuss design, implementation and evaluation of various policies from public policy and/or public management perspective.

Our panel welcomes contributions analyzing single and multi-country settings, employing both quantitative and qualitative design and research methods. Papers will be accepted which feature (but are not limited to):

- Theoretical overviews of the public policy/public management literature.
- Interesting case studies in Central Asian countries.
- Longitudinal research in public policy/public management reforms in any of the Central Asian countries.
- Comparative research on Central Asian countries.

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## Session 1 Central Asia Policy

Thursday, June 29th 08:15 to 10:15 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 4)

### **The Challenge of Pension Reform in Kazakhstan: Pressures for Change and Reform Strategies**

Elena Maltseva (University of Windsor)

Saltanat Janenova (Nazarbayev University)

### **The steering of the higher education system in Kazakhstan: the perspectives of autonomy in universities**

Danagul Yembergenova (University of Geneva )

### **Fiscal Decentralization with Focus on City Development in Kazakhstan**

Madina Junussova (Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia)

### **Can Kazakhstan Follow Singapore? Assessment of Its Civil Service Reform Capacity**

Naomi Aoki (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Saltanat Janenova (Nazarbayev University)

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## Session 2 Central Asia Sector Specific

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 4)

### **Development of entrepreneurship education in Kazakhstan: the need for government regulation**

Agipa Monobayeva (Narxoz University)

Maira Iembekova (Narxoz University)

### **'Good enough governance' in Central Asia**

Omer Baris (Nazarbayev University)

Colin Knox (Nazarbayev University, Graduate School of Public Policy)

### **Who Sets the Agenda in Kazakhstan? An analysis of key actors in economic diversification**

Mergen Dyussenov (Astana IT University)

### **Separation of powers and constitutional reforms on power transition in Kazakhstan.**

Serik Orazgaliyev (Nazarbayev University, Graduate School of Public Policy)