

London Central Asia Research Network
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Call for papers
12th Annual Doctoral Research Workshop

27 January 2024

Gender inequalities and women's rights in Central Asia

Convened by

Dr Orzala Nemat, Director of Development Research Group
Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies
&
Dr Gül Berna Özcan, Royal Holloway University of London

Organising Committee

Dr Gulzat Botoeva, Swansea University; Dr Gai Jorayev, UCL; Dr Oybek Madiev, Kent University; Dr Zhanar Sekerbayeva, Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative “Feminita”

This event will be hosted both online and onsite at Bedford Square, Bloomsbury, London



©Afghan women protested outside the former Ministry of women affairs, which has been replaced by the Ministry of Virtue and Vice in Kabul, Afghanistan-September 19, 2021. Haroon Sabawoon/Getty Images
©Nodira, a renowned poet and powerful stateswoman during the 7th-century khanate of Kokand.

This workshop explores the leading factors that enable or hinder gender equality and improvement in human rights in Central Asia. The recent regime change with Taliban in Afghanistan, internment camps in China, and growing patriarchal and authoritarian polities in post-Soviet Central Asia have exacerbated gender inequality and disregard for women's rights.

The aim of this 12th research workshop of LCARN, therefore, is to engage critically with women's drifting status and enrich our in-depth understanding of gender relations and human rights and examine the role of civil society and NGOs in facilitating or hindering women's empowerment across this vast region. By exploring the role of women in media, arts and sciences, we will aim to identify some practical means to promote gender equality and respect for human rights. We further expect to have insights from contributors on the spatial and structural aspects of labour market participation and the core lessons that could be learnt from varying forms of support and interventions to strengthen gender equality.

It is our hope that this workshop draws attention to the realities of shrinking public space for women and girls in Central Asia while bringing together multi-disciplinary and innovative research to advance scholarship and inform policy making.

Submissions are invited along the lines of, but not limited to, the following themes:

- i) The history of Central Asian women's struggle for rights during the pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet periods.
- ii) An assessment of the current state of affairs on women and girls' everyday experience under the reality of bans, restrictions and safety challenges across the region.
- iii) The effect of NGOs, civil society and social media on women's movements.
- iv) The effects of Taliban's hostile behaviour towards women in Afghanistan and beyond in the region.
- v) National and international legal systems with regard to gender equality.
- vi) Depiction and the role of women in politics, media, arts and science
- vii) The spatial and structural context of labour market participation, pay gap and professional development.
- viii) Invading women's body: sterilisation and forced abortion of Uygur women in China's internments camps.

Submission Deadline: 15 December 2023

Submissions should be sent to: londoncentralasia@gmail.com

- Author's name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address
- A 250-paper summary along with a 100-word bio

The presentations could be papers, PowerPoint slides, audio or visual material. Please also state whether you prefer to attend face-to-face or online. The final aim of the workshop is to prepare a journal special issue based on the papers presented.

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFZVYX0ib6Q>

LCARN is a London-UK based group. Our interdisciplinary research network aims to showcase early career researchers working on Central Asia and its wider region. We believe in collective learning and have built a dedicated group of scholars since 2012 through doctoral workshops.