

### **Current position**

Since 2013: Head of the Master of Arts Program in Central Asian Studies at the American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
([https://www.auca.kg/en/master\\_of\\_arts\\_in\\_central\\_asian\\_studies/](https://www.auca.kg/en/master_of_arts_in_central_asian_studies/))

Since 2012: Director, Central Asian Studies Institute, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (<https://www.auca.kg/en/casiabout/>)

### **Education**

2000. PhD in ethnology, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations (INALCO) and the School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS). Paris, France.

1995. DEA (Diplôme d'études approfondies), Department of Inner and Minor Asia (INALCO-EHESS). Paris, France.

1994. MA (maîtrise) in ethnology, INALCO. First class honours. Paris, France.

### **Scholarships**

1996-1998. PhD scholarship at the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (Tashkent, Uzbekistan).

### **Fellowships**

2006-2009. Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Germany).

2000-2003. Research Fellow at the French Institute for Central Asian Studies, Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

### **Research Grants**

2010-2012. Volkswagenstiftung Grant Holder at the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien. Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany).

### **Participation in International Research Project**

2013-2016. *Translocal Goods - Education, Work, and Commodities between Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, China, and the Arab Emirates*. Volkswagen Stiftung.

2000-2005. East Meets West: Linguistic and Genetic Comparison of *Modern Eurasian Populations*. A joint program in anthropology, linguistics and population genetics. European Science Foundation, CRP 01-JA18.

2002-2005. *Nomadism, Identity and Ethnicity: Political Spheres and Local Powers in Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Niger and Mauritania*. National Centre for Scientific Research, Laboratory of Social Anthropology, ACI 501869.

2001. *Pastoral Societies and States: Local Powers in Transition. Comparative Analysis of Buriats (Russian Federation) and Kyrgyz (Kyrgyzstan)*. National Centre for Scientific Research, Russian Academy of Sciences.

### **PhD Thesis Supervision**

2007-2012. Mateusz Laszckowski. *The Politics and Pragmatics of Future in Urban Kazakhstan*. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology / Mari Curie SocAnth.

### MA Thesis Supervision

2013. Marziya Davlyatova. *Is There Room for Traditional Civil Society in Central Asia?* OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

### Affiliations

European Society for Central Asian Studies  
Central Eurasian Studies Society

### Languages

Fluent: English, Russian, French, Bulgarian.  
Working level: Turkish, Kyrgyz, Kazak, Karakalpak.  
Elementary level: German, Uzbek.

### Participation in Conferences and Seminars

- Key lectures

4-7.08.2013. If the Dogs Bark, Can the Caravan Go On: steppe history, metadiscursive practices and the future of Central Asian scholarship. *XIII Biennial Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*. Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan.

- Invited Talks

5-6.08.2014. "In" or "On": some anthropological insights into Central Asia as a research area. *Knowledge Production and Knowledge Transfer in and on Central and Inner Asia*. Seminar organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, the Netherlands, with the support of the International Unit for Central and Inner Asian Studies (Ulaanbaatar) and Ulaanbaatar University. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

11.10.2013. Studying Central Asia: on the merits of "eavesdropping". Central Asia Program, The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, Washington, USA.

- International Conferences

15-18.10.2015. Old Sayings, New Claims: the Making and Mediating of Tradition and Custom in Kyrgyzstan. *Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society*. Washington DC, USA.

8-10.10.2015. State-orchestrated Traumas: Destruction, Loss and Lack in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. *XIV Biennial conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*. Zurich, Switzerland.

20-24.11.2013. State-orchestrated Traumas: Destruction, Loss and Lack in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. *Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association*, Chicago, USA.

04.05.2013. On the Affordances and Constraints of Academic Disciplines. *Lenses, Prisms and Mirrors: Zooming, Interpreting and Reflecting in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Central Asia*. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

22-23.02.2013. From Authentic to True History: Negotiations of Value and Authority in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. *The Production of History in Central Asia and Beyond*. Zentrum für

- Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien - Vorderer Orient, Afrika, Asien, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg and the Volkswagen Stiftung. Halle, Germany.
- 17-18.12.2012. Between Corruption and Tradition: the Two-dimensional Clan. *Kyrgyzstan Beyond 'Democracy Island' and 'Failing State': Factoring Social and Political Changes in a Post-Soviet Society*. Central Asia Program, the Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University and Uppsala Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Uppsala, Sweden.
- 18-21.10.2012. History Production at the Crossroads of the 'European Path' and the 'Kyrgyz Path'. *Actions and Models of Today's Political States*. Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society. Bloomington, IN, USA.
- 28-29.09.2012. Introductory Remarks. *"Formal" and "Informal" Central Asia: Institutions, Identities and Discourses*. Second Annual Conference of the Central Asian Studies Institute. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 14-17.09.2011. History and Culture: for a Competitive Research Agenda of Historical Anthropology in Central Asia. *Wa(h)re „Kultur“? Kulturelles Erbe, Revitalisierung und die Renaissance der Idee von Kultur*. DGV-Tagung, Vienna, Austria.
- 20-22.09.2011. On the Attractiveness and Authority of Disciplines: and on the Need for a Historical Anthropology as a Second-level Discourse. *XII Biennial Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*. Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- 9-10.12. 2010. The Time of Dishonour: Murder in the Nomadic Regions of Colonial Central Asia. *The Dynamics of Muslim Legal Pluralism under Colonial Rule*. Conveners: Dr. P. Sartori, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Paul. Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle.
- 16-18.05.2008. From Mundane Conflicts to a Need of State Authority: the Practices of Descent in Northern Kyrgyzstan. *Anthropological Perspectives on Central Asia: New Developments in the Field*, University of Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 12-15.12.2007. Identification, Categorization and Social Structures on the Crossroad of Ethnology and Human Genetics. Concluding conference of the research program on *The Origin of Man, Language and Languages*, European Science Foundation, Rome, Italy.
- 18-21.10.2007. Descent in Northern Kirghizstan: Processes of Identification, Collective Action and Integration. *Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference*, Seattle, USA.
- 12-15.09.2007. Integration among Northern Kirghiz: Kinship and Descent in Practice. *Tenth Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*, Ankara, Turkey.
- 23-26.03.2006. The Exercise and the Conception of Power among Northern Kyrgyz. *Representing Power in Asia: Legitimising, Consecrating, Contesting*. Organised by the Ecole pratique des hautes études (Paris) and the Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies Unit, Department of Social Anthropology (Cambridge), Paris, France.
- Workshops, Study Days and Summer Schools
- 6-9.04.2015. Translocality and Globalizing Ethno-nationalism. *Exploring Translocality: Methodological Reflections and Ethnographic Cases*. Workshop convened by Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and American University of Central Asia. Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.
- 15.08.2014. Language as a Resource. *DAAD Summer School on "Resources and Conflict in Central Asia."* Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan.

- 14.08.2014. Genealogies and Tradition: History as a Resource. *DAAD Summer School on "Resources and Conflict in Central Asia."* Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan.
- 15-16.04.2014. Central Asia as a Research Area: Scholars and Agendas. *Central Asia Fulbright Research Workshop.* Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 28.11.2012. How to do Competitive and Authoritative Research on Central Asia. *Central Asia Fulbright Research Workshop.* Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 27.11.2012. Central Asia as a Research Area: Past and Present. *Central Asia Fulbright Research Workshop.* Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 23.11.2011. The "Clan Debate": towards a Historical Anthropology in Central Asia. Weekly seminar of Department II, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle.
- 11.02.2010. Des querelles de village à la légitimité de l'état: discours and pratiques de la descendance au Kirghizstan du nord. *L'Asie centrale dans tous ses états.* EHESS, Paris.
- 21-26.09.2009. Which Borders Matter, How and Why? Border Experiences among Central Asian Herd Breeders (the case of Kyrgyzstan). *Sixteenth Mediterranean Ethnological Summer School.* Nova Gorica, Slovenia.
- 14.07.2008. From Mundane Frictions to a Need of State: Descent in Practice and Discourse (Northern Kyrgyzstan). *Anthropological Workshop of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology,* Halle, Germany.
- 23.06.2008. From Mundane Conflicts to a Need of State: the Practices of Descent in Northern Kyrgyzstan. *Central Asia Study Group,* Orientalische Wissenschaft Zentrum, Halle, Germany.
- 06.06.2008. Summary and presentation in English of "The archaeology of nationalisms in Central Asia: the Order of Things and Supervise and Punish" of Sergej Abashin. *Study Day on Identity Construction.* The Central Asia Group of Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Halle, Germany.
- 29.05.2008. Size Matters but Why. *Study Day on Group Size.* The Central Asia Group of Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Halle, Germany.
- 15.05.2007. On Kinship and Descent among the Kyrgyz. *Anthropological Workshop of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology,* Halle, Germany.
- 28.10.2006. Hommes, espaces et réseaux. Closing workshop of the project ACI 501869 *Nomadisme, identité, ethnicité: espaces et pouvoirs locaux (Russie, Kirghizstan, Niger, Mauritanie).* Timia, Niger.
- 09.11.2005. When the Dead Socialize the Alive: Past and Present of Kyrgyz Funeral Practices. *Study day on Funeral Practices in Northern Eurasia* organized by the Group for the Study of the Sociology of Religion and Secularity (GSRL - CNRS/UMR 8582), Paris.
- 24.01.2005. Pasture Management among the Kyrgyz. Seminar on *Power and Territory: Nomadic Societies in Transition.* Jean-François Gossiaux and André Bourgeot (CNRS / LAIOS / LAS).
- 19.01.2005. Fat Rump or Fine Wool: Resistance and Flexibility of a High Mountain Herding System (Kyrgyzstan). Seminar on the *Anthropology of Human-Animal Relations.* Noëlie Vialles (Laboratory of Social Anthropology) and Arouna Ouédraogo (National Institute for Agronomic Research).
- 13.12.2004. Persons of Authority in a Kyrgyz Village. Seminar on *Power and Territory: Nomadic Societies in Transition.* Jean-François Gossiaux and André Bourgeot (CNRS / LAIOS / LAS).

- 22.11.2004. Pre-Soviet Kyrgyz Social System, Herd Breeding and Management of Pastoral Resources. Seminar on *Power and Territory: Nomadic Societies in Transition*. Jean-François Gossiaux and André Bourgeot (CNRS / LAIOS / LAS).
- 23.02.2004. Kyrgyz Notions of Territory. Seminar on *Power and Territory: Nomadic Societies in Transition*. Jean-François Gossiaux and André Bourgeot (CNRS / LAIOS / LAS).
- 10.04.2003. Les transhumants kirghiz du lac Song-köl: entre traditions et innovations. Le cas du village de Togolok Moldo. *Thursday's Talks*, organized by the French Institute for Central Asian Studies. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- 27.03.2003. Hunting with Eagles and Legends of Origin among the Kyrgyz. Seminar on *Symbolic Ecology*. Phillippe Descola (Laboratory of Social Anthropology, Collège de France).

- Discussant

15-18.10.2015. Panel on "The Use of Tradition." *Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society*. Washington DC, USA.

30.05-01.06.2013. Panel on "Perestroika discourses and their transmitters: academia, literature and literature criticism, journals and other media". *The History of Perestroika in Central Asia*. VolkswagenStiftung - Aigine, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

- Invited Chair

- 8-10.10.2015. Panel on "The moral economies of sacred places, blessings and feasting. Transformation or re-traditionalisation?" *XIV Biennial conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*. Zurich, Switzerland.

11-12.12.2009. Panel on "Local governance". *Social History of Modern Central Asia: a Focus on Arabic-script Documents (18th-20th centuries)*. Oriental Institute, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany.

23-24.04.2009. Panel on "National Schools and Transnational Institutions". *Socialist Era Anthropology in the Caucasus and Central Asia*. Max Planck Institute for Social anthropology, Halle, Germany.

### **Organization of workshops and conferences**

31.10-1.11.2015. *The Eurasian Economic Union: Political, Economic and Social Aspects*. Fifth Annual Conference of the Central Asian Studies Institute. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

27-28.09.2013. *Constructing Authority through Custom and Tradition*. Third Annual Conference of the Central Asian Studies Institute. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

22-23.02.2013. *The Production of History in Central Asia and Beyond*. Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien - Vorderer Orient, Afrika, Asien, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg and the Volkswagen Stiftung. Co-organized with Ildiko Beller-Hann. Halle, Germany.

28-29.09.2012. *'Formal' and 'Informal' Central Asia: Institutions, Identities and Discourses*. Second Annual Conference of the Central Asian Studies Institute. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

16-18.12.2008. *The Transnationalisation of Contemporary Central Asia*. Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris; Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle). Co-organized with B.Petric. Paris, France.

### **Teaching**

- CA 500 Introduction to Area Studies (MA in Central Asian Studies, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).
- CA 503 Introduction to Central Asian Studies (MA in Central Asian Studies, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).
- CA 508 Master Thesis' Development. (MA in Central Asian Studies, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).

### **Fieldwork**

- 14.09.2010-13.10.2010, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (Volkswagen Stiftung).
- March - May 2008. Naryn region, Kyrgyzstan (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle).
- July - October 2007. Naryn region, Kyrgyzstan (MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle).
- September 2005. Kyzyl-tuu Autonomous District, China (CRP 01-JA18, European Science Foundation)
- September 2004. Aktalaa and Kochkor regions, Kyrgyzstan (ACI 501869, CNRS)
- June-August 2003. Kochkor and Naryn regions, Kyrgyzstan (French Institute for Central Asian Studies)
- June 2003. Naryn and Osh regions, Kyrgyzstan (CRP 01-JA18, European Science Foundation)
- September 2002. Aktalaa region, Kyrgyzstan (ACI 501869, CNRS)
- June-August 2002. Kochkor and Naryn regions, Kyrgyzstan (French Institute for Central Asian Studies)
- February 2002. Törtkul region, Karakalpakistan (CRP 01-JA18, European Science Foundation)
- June-August 2001. Kochkor and Naryn regions, Kyrgyzstan (French Institute for Central Asian Studies)
- July 2001. Song-köl, Kyrgyzstan (ACI 501869, CNRS)
- April 2001. Moynak region, Karakalpakistan (CRP 01-JA18, European Science Foundation)
- September 1995 - August 1997. Field Research for PhD thesis in Kyrgyzstan and south-eastern Kazakhstan.