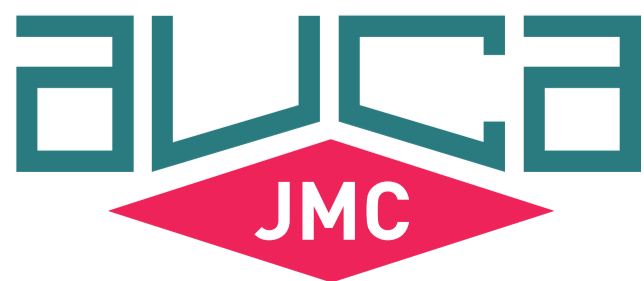


**JOURNALISM  
and  
MASS COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS  
MARH - JUNE 2021**



TWO JMC UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS THESE WORKS WERE SELECTED BY THE OPEN SOCIETY UNIVERSITY NETWORK (OSUN).

JMC DEPARTMENT NOMINATED FOUR SENIOR PROJECT IN THREE CATEGORIES AND WERE SELECTED:

## JMC STUDENTS AT THE OSUN PANEL



CHEN  
EMILY JIJUN



ASEL  
OSMONGAZIEVA



open  
society  
university  
network

- **Asel Osmongazieva**, with her thesis work: **"The excluded. Tuberculosis and all its forms we don't know about."** will present in the OSUN theme: Global Public Health. Supervisor Anastasia Valeeva.

- **Chen, Emily Jijun**, with her senior project: **"No One Cares: African Migrants Live in Cultural Discrimination. Misrepresentation of Blacks in China."** in the OSUN theme: Human Rights. Supervisor Anastasia Valeeva.

More information about OSUN

The panel, which will be hosted by the Open Society University Network (OSUN) will include students from our network partners. The idea is to showcase the quality and diversity of work being done by students around the world, and to give you an opportunity to meet and talk with like-minded young scholars from around the world.

Please join the JMC department in congratulating **Asel** and **Emily** on their new success!

## **BEST SENIOR THESIS OF 2020-2021 FROM JMC DEPARTMENT MASTERS PROGRAM**

We are happy to announce that Zhazgul Ibraimova became the winner of the SILC Best Thesis Award 2021!

The SILC Best Thesis Award - recognizes and promotes excellent research by the AUCA bachelor and master's students. The award is given annually from the Student Intellectual Life Committee of AUCA.

The winners are students whose theses were recognized as the most outstanding within those who submitted to the different Academic Programs at AUCA.

### **SILC BEST THESIS AWARD WINNER**

Zhazgul Ibraimova



Zhazgul's project is called "Discovering Kyrgyz Shortcuts", which explores the world of shortcut films and presents main concepts of Kyrgyz shorts as they reflect different times and their changes. Zhazgul's supervisor within this projects was Georgy Mamedov, instructor of TV, Cinema and Media Arts department at AUCA.

Zhazgul will also be awarded a certificate of achievement and monetary prize of \$500 for her accomplishment.

We congratulate her on this remarkable achievement and wish her further success!



**UMATOVA LALIZA, A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT OF THE JMC DEPARTMENT, WAS ACCEPTED TO THE BGIA (Bard Globalization and International Affairs) PROGRAM PROVIDED BY BARD COLLEGE.**

She will be studying an intensive course in international affairs and a cover internship program, which will be held during the Fall-2021 semester in New York City. At the moment, Laliza is applying for an internship and preparing to get her visa. She will study in the United States in August this year and live in a dormitory in Manhattan. BGIA academics will consist of courses related to international affairs taught in seminar classes. Students will have a chance to meet real-world experts with their lectures.

The program also organizes different events such as concerts, Broadway shows, trips, etc., which will help get to know NYC and each other better. Laliza will be awarded a certificate in the intensive academic study of globalization and international affairs upon completion. Please join the JMC department in congratulating Laliza on her new success!



**THE BBC KYRGYZ SERVICE WITH NATIONAL BROADCAST TV (KTRK) INVITED AUCA** faculty and students to participate in the special edition of the TV show "BBC Sapar," dedicated to the 25th anniversary of BBC Kyrgyz Service in Kyrgyzstan. It was a great experience to join an actual TV show on an international level.



## 2021 CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNALISM VIRTUAL INSTITUTE (CAJVI)

On Monday, March 29, Meridian International Center and American University of Central Asia launched the first Central Asian Journalism Virtual Institute, funded by the U.S. Department State. As travel restrictions continue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this innovative virtual program connects young journalists across borders through live sessions and online teamwork.

Opening the event, the **U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Donald Lu** stated, “I believe the people of Central Asia value investigative journalism and freedom of the media. Central Asia faces tremendous challenges to democracy, almost on a daily basis, and it’s independent journalism, together with civil society, that defends democracy against those who wish to establish dictatorships. It’s all of you who give me hope in the future of that democracy.”

Closing remarks on Friday, April 23 were given by the **U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Daniel Rosenblum and President and COO of Meridian International Center - Lee Satterfield. Director of Institute, Aizhana Dzhumalieva**, mentioned that, “Central Asian Journalism Institute is umbrella organization unites journalists from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and any common projects across region, especially for Media and journalism are crucial and we hope will bring positive changes”.

CAJVI 2021 was hybrid, and Institute Director Aizhana Dzhumalieva and filmmaker Adilet Karzhoev visited Dushanbe, Tashkent, and Almaty with Leadership workshops and masterclasses on video production and photography.





**IN APRIL, JMC INSTRUCTOR TYNIMGUL ESHIEVA GAVE PUBLIC LECTURES ON WRITING ESSAYS AND PREPARING A PORTFOLIO FOR A CAREER TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDIA LAW ORGANIZED BY MEDIA POLICY INSTITUTE**  
<https://www.facebook.com/media.kg/photos/a.1434964820174383/1434946320176233>

<https://www.facebook.com/media.kg/photos/a.256785961325614/1427615307576001> .

As part of online meetings of Fulbright alumni with students of universities and schools (Media Policy project as well), she gave lectures on media literacy in English

<https://www.facebook.com/media.kg/photos/a.256785961325614/1430359467301585>.

In March-May, Tynymgul Eshieva and her mentee AUCA sophomore student Nuray Ozayeva participated in the AUCA Mentorship program. In May, she published an essay about women-led NGO Garmonia+ in Karakol in one of the leading Kyrgyz media, Politklinikka <https://pk.kg/news/21996>.



## ■ SILC

In April, a group of JMC Master students travelled all across the country evaluating the infrastructure of schools in Kyrgyzstan.

The research trips resulted in many photos and interviews with the school directors. At the moment, the group is finalizing the project"

In May, JMC students and AUCA librarian Zhuzumkan Askhatbekova, who is auditing the course, presented the project at the SILC event.



PHOTOS OF MASTER STUDENTS

## **GENDER AND MEDIA CLASS TOGETHER WITH UN WOMEN & SCHOOL OF DATA**

On May 18, there was a presentation of the final projects of our graduate students in the framework of the course "Gender and Media", which was conducted in cooperation with UN Women and the School of Data.

The results of the work done were multimedia data-based articles on the selected gender issue in the context of Central Asia.

"Together with the School of Data and the UN Women, we have developed modules on gender statistics for teaching in journalism faculties. Implemented and tested as part of my Master of Journalism course "Gender and Media", which I teach at AUCA Journalism and Mass Communications department some years.

Today my students made presentations on their multimedia articles (longreads and even quizzes), which we will soon post on online platforms. I hope similar disciplines will appear in other universities of Kyrgyzstan in the near future." - shares the initiator of the project and our faculty professor Nurzhamal Karamoldoeva

### **Projects that were presented by graduate students:**

Valentina Galich - **"Gender Quiz in Kyrgyzstan"**

Sezim Digerbaeva - **"Education and early marriage in Kyrgyzstan".**

Taalay Talantbek uulu - **"Overview of women migrants from Kyrgyzstan"**

Ekaterina Afanasyeva - **"Women in leadership positions in academic circles in Kazakhstan".**

Yulia Goryaynova - **"Domestic violence against cisgender men in Kyrgyzstan"**



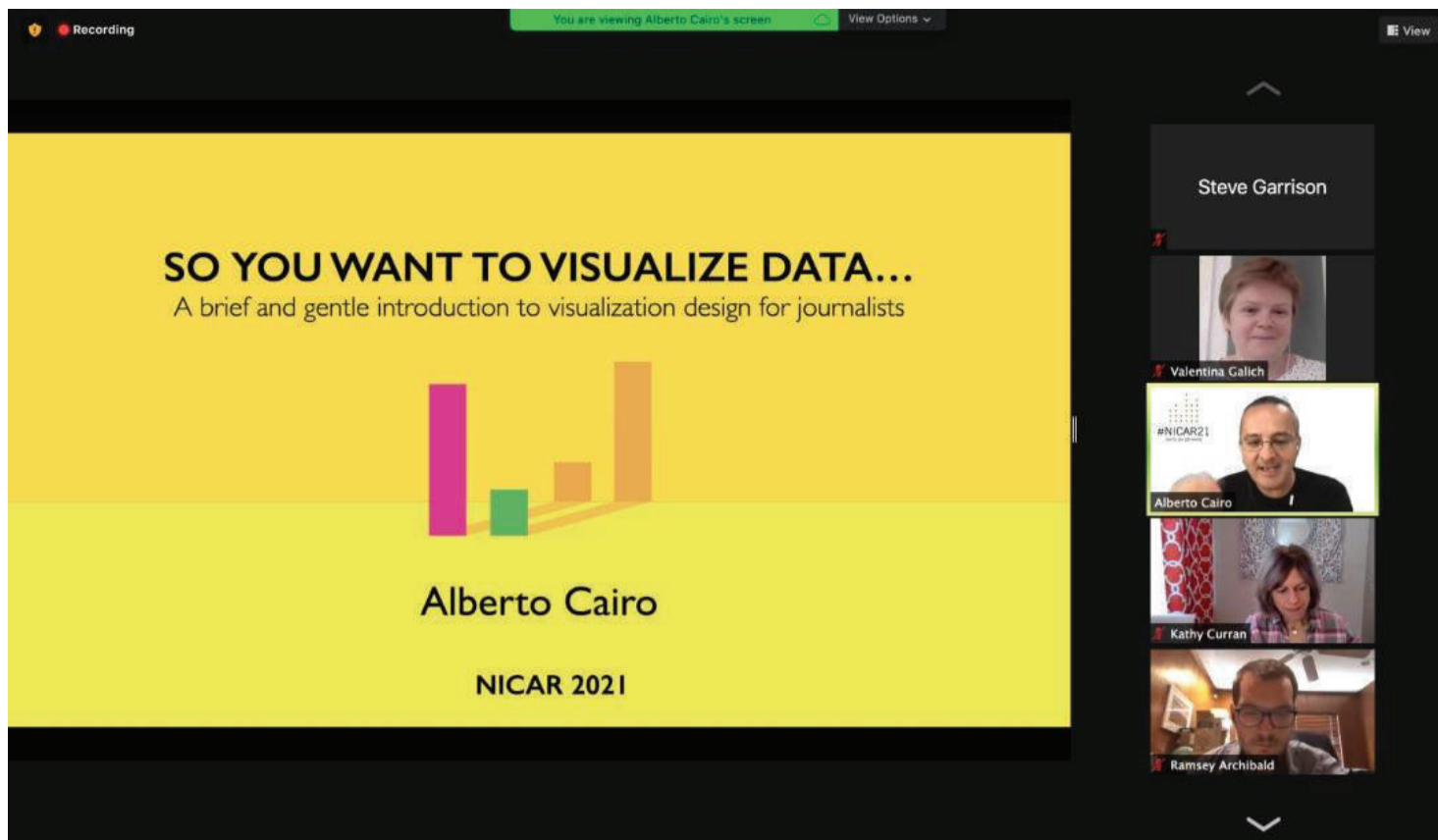
PHOTOS OF JMC MASTER STUDENTS AND FACULTY

## ■ AMICAL SMALL GRANTS

JMC master students attended the world's biggest conference on data journalism – NICAR 2021. Here's some of their feedback:

“Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Nicar conference! I have attended various lectures, and I will look at some of them later. For me personally, the conference was useful not only for new information, I want to note that for a journalist, it is probably very important to understand what is happening in the international arena, what specialists, professionals who are at the top of their careers talk about and teach. It is very pleasant to observe such people, even through the zoom. Listen to them, analyze their thoughts. From the lectures I listened to, I want to highlight a lecture from Paul Vixie on “Finding the story: Using DNS search for investigative journalism”, Rachelle Solomon and Caitlyn Ralph on the topic: “Journalist Studio tools”. And also Alberto Cairo on the topic: “So you want to visualize data?” I really like his work. And it was a great pleasure to listen to this person in real time. Examples of the viewed data visualizations form the viewability, which is very important in our profession. Thank you again for this opportunity!”

“Together with the other students, I have received access not only to recordings, but also to the library of federal databases, which is a plethora of study materials and other resources. As a librarian, and as a teaching assistant, I can now offer and use these resources to the students and the faculty. Additionally, there is an access to the IRE online store, with a possibility to purchase exclusive study materials -- an option that I might also offer to students of faculty wishing to develop their course”.



## KURAK OF TOLERANCE

Our Data art project "Kurak of Tolerance" found its home in AUCA campus on the first floor near the kitchenette. Come to see our art and find yourself in it!

All about this project we will share soon in our social media @auca.journalism and website



PHOTOS OF KURAK AT THE AUCA CAMPUS

## **JOURNALISM MEDIA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM (JMMP)**

The JMMP program is designed for JMC students to get connections with the industry while they are still studying. Selected students matched with mentors who are media professionals from different areas like reporting, multimedia and communications. They developed informal professional relationships via a series of press brunches where they could exchange ideas, get inspired and establish new connections.

Also, each student mentee worked on a professional project that will be published until July 2021, under the supervision of his mentor. The mentor assisted a student as an editor and provided feedback during the program.

The project started with a kick-off press brunch. Later on, selected fellows worked on their projects. Several more meetings were scheduled to encourage exchange between the participants. By the end of the program, students will have work published and a professional connection for their future. The event ended with a final meeting and discussion about the students' projects.

Through the call and personal invitations 9 participants were selected. Among them 4 representatives of TOP media professionals in Kyrgyzstan and 5 students of the Journalism and Mass Communications department.

### **They are (Student - mentor):**

**Ayana Zholdoshbek - Dina Maslova**, Kaktus kg

**Anisa Zulfova - Mahinur Niyazova**, 24 KG

**Nuray Ozayeva - Tynymgul Eshieva**, SOROS

**Mariam Sulaimanova - Anna Kapushenko**, Kloop kg

**Ajar Bakirova - Natalia Lee**, Cabar Asia

From March, project participants started working together on their projects. The mentor and the student met freely at a convenient time, most often in the mentors' offices. This way our students gained even more experience and saw the working atmosphere of their future professional area.



PHOTOS OF PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PRESS BRUNCHES

As part of the JMMP project, our student Nuray was able to travel the regions for her final work. She went to Osh for two days to take interviews from southern experts on her topic. Moreover, as an international student, she needed to know how regional media develops in Kyrgyzstan, that is why she visited our colleagues - the "T-media" office in Osh and even participated in their live news show.



PHOTOS OF NURAY'S TRIP TO OSH

Final presentation of the projects was held on 7th of June 2021. At the event, students presented their final works to other participants, they announced the publication dates, received comments from other mentors and questions from students. All projects were very interesting and innovative. Soon they will be published in top local media outlets.



PHOTOS FROM FINAL PRESENTATION EVENT 07.06.2021

## **LINKS TO OUR STUDENTS' WORKS WITHIN THE JMMP PROJECT** (others will be published very soon, stay tuned):

- 1) [https://kaktus.media/doc/439614\\_faktcheking\\_v\\_kyrgyzstane:\\_metody\\_borby\\_s\\_feykami.html](https://kaktus.media/doc/439614_faktcheking_v_kyrgyzstane:_metody_borby_s_feykami.html)
- 2) [https://soros.kg/srs/ru/2021/04/13/trainingonemotionalburnout/#iLightbox\[gallery126220\]/](https://soros.kg/srs/ru/2021/04/13/trainingonemotionalburnout/#iLightbox[gallery126220]/)
- 3) [https://longreads.cabar.asia/stereotypes\\_in\\_sport](https://longreads.cabar.asia/stereotypes_in_sport)

## JMC FACULTY MEETING

On May 4, the JMC department organized a meeting at Social Coffee for all JMC faculty (undergraduate and graduate levels). In person gatherings bring many insights during the remote work process. The main agenda were:

- The end of the academic year
- Preparations for State Exams
- Students defending process, Students Master and Senior Projects
- Discussion of affairs and updates at the JMC department,
- New faculty for next academic year
- Graduation for 2021
- Key Learning for next academic year
- Promotion of MA JMC program





## OUR FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Anastasia Valeeva has been admitted to the Lede Program in Data Journalism at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism with a scholarship. It is a 10-week intensive on coding and data analysis. In 2021, it will run remotely.

Olga Tarabashkina won the Presidential Research and Education Fund (PREF) Grant for Spring 2021, with her proposal “Role of Gender and Social Media in Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Elections October 2020”

## NEW DATA JOURNALISM BOOKS COLLECTION IN AUCA LIBRARY

JMC Data Journalism Instructor Anastasia Valeeva is leaving at the university data journalism book collection, available for students, faculty and staff. It includes:

**Facts are sacred**, Simon Rogers

**The Data Journalism Handbook**, ed. Gray, Bounegru and Chambers

**Precision Journalism**, Philip Meyer

**Storytelling with Data**, Nussbaumer Knaflic

**The Truthful Art**, Alberto Cairo

**How Charts Lie**, Alberto Cairo

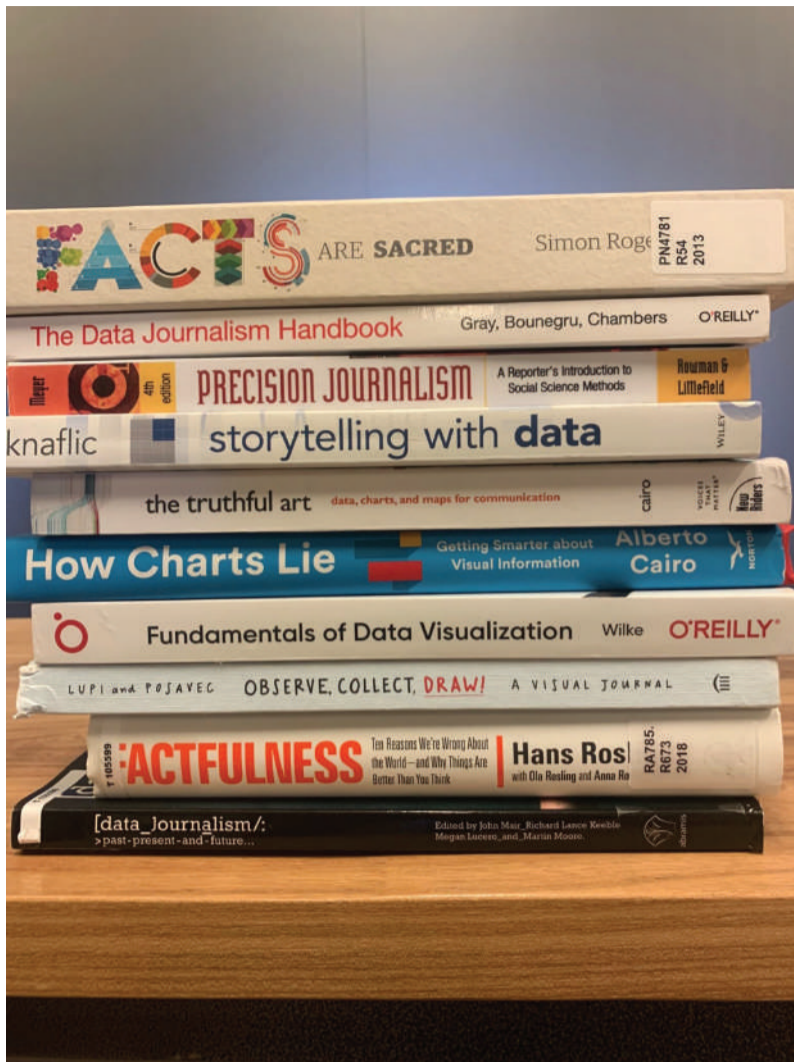
**Fundamentals of Data Visualization**, Wilke

**Observe, Collect, Draw!** Lupi and Posavec

**Factfulness**, Hans Rosling

**Data Journalism: Past, Present and Future**

**Info We Trust**, RJ Andrews



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