

# RESEARCH

Research Services Office Newsletter

Issue 15, June 21, 2017



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# NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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## Dear NU Research Community!

Please welcome 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Research Newsletter! The year is flying by! Summer has already come, but we are not slowing down anytime soon.

In this newsletter you will find an interview with Erkan Topal, Dean of School of Mining and Geosciences and Interim Dean of School of Engineering in our Spotlight column. We also would like to offer you a very interesting note on Dr. Irfan Ahmad's visit to NU from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This visit included a lecture, a workshop, and various meetings with NU administration, faculty, staff, including interactions with students, and UIUC alumni.

In this issue you will also read the news about recent events like the sixth annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum (EHELFL), Swiss-Kazakh International Seminar on "Smart Sustainable Cities", Executive workshop on 'Systems engineering and process management' at the Ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry and many others.

Be sure to keep track on your colleagues' publication success through our 'New publications' column.

We also prepared much more new useful information in "Grants and Competitions" column– on new funding opportunities, Abe Fellowship and Fonds Suez Initiatives for our faculty members.

Research Performance Evaluation using SciVal was updated for you to observe NU research success since the establishment and up to date.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and of course would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to know more.

Our aim is to send out a newsletter on a constant basis to advise you of future events, report on previous events, and encourage you to share your research with other NU members. Any feedback on conferences and events attended, any research items of interest, news, and achievements to share are most welcome. Please forward them directly to [rsonu@nu.edu.kz](mailto:rsonu@nu.edu.kz).

***Sincerely,***  
***Research Services Office***

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# CONTENTS

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Erkan Topal, Dean of School of Mining and Geosciences.....	5
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## RESEARCH NEWS

How to build a bridge between research and innovation?.....	10
Secrets of Maverannah: where genetics depends on culture.....	11
Seeing ourselves as others see us: Can “soft power” save Europe?.....	13
NLA is to open a joint laboratory in Medicine in Shanghai, China.....	15
The sixth annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders’ Forum (EHELF).....	16
Environmental Science & Technology Group (ESTg) news.....	18
Research News from the Graduate School of Public Policy.....	20
Conference at SHSS: Eurasian Migration, Past & Present.....	22
Swiss-Kazakh International Seminar on “Smart Sustainable Cities.....	22
Executive workshop on “Systems engineering and process management” at the ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry.....	24
Research news from the Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, NUSOM.....	25
Research news from the Graduate School of Business.....	27

## GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

New funding opportunities.....	28
Original—isn't' it? New Options for the humanities and cultural studies.....	28
Policy, Advocacy, and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health (PACE).....	29
Research opportunities in space and earth sciences 2017 (ROSES—2017).....	29
Abe Fellowship.....	30
Fonds SUEZ Initiatives.....	34
National Geographic Society: Seeking Applications for Standard Grant Program.....	36
Between Europe and the Orient—A focus on research and higher education in Central Asia.....	37

## USEFUL INFORMATION

New publications at Nazarbayev University.....	38
Promoting interdisciplinary research: Pure research management solution.....	38
Research performance evaluation using SciVal.....	39

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Valagiannopoulos and Prof. Kovanis!.....	40
Congratulations to Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski!.....	40

*(Continued on page 4)*

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*(Continued from page 3)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IET Cyber-Physical Systems Theory and Applications.....	41
NU GSE Research in Education Journal: Call for papers.....	42
Conference on Good Governance and Economic Diversification in Resources Rich Economies...	43
<b>Newsletter's previous issues.....</b>	<b>44</b>

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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## Interview with Erkan Topal, Dean of School of Mining and Geosciences

*Prof. Erkan Topal is a mining engineer with a Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Mineral Economics, MSc and PhD. Degree in Mining Engineering from Colorado School of Mines in U.S. He has worked in several different countries on different projects and positions including U.S, Canada, Sweden, Turkey, and Australia. He served as Professor and Head of Department position at the Western Australian School of Mines, Curtin University, Australia before accepting the founding dean role in the School of Mining and Geoscience at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. His main research interests are in mine planning and optimization, mineral and energy economics. He is in the editorial board of five scientific journals in the area of mining including editor-in-chief role for the International Journal of Mining, Reclamation and Environment Journal and has published over 100 papers in reputed journals and refereed conference proceedings. He is a professional member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Minerals (AUSIMM), the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. (SME) and Society for Mining Engineering in Turkey.*

**Research Services Office:** Thank you for agreeing to have interview with us.

**Erkan Topal:** I'm happy to share our news with the NU Community.



**RSO:** Your academic career is pretty impressive. You had a chance to work at 3 top Schools in the world in terms of Mining Engineering programs - Colorado School of Mines, Western Australian School of Mines, The University of Queensland.. At the same time I'm also aware of the fact that you have been successful in your industry career experience as well. What was the main incentive to come back to academic life?

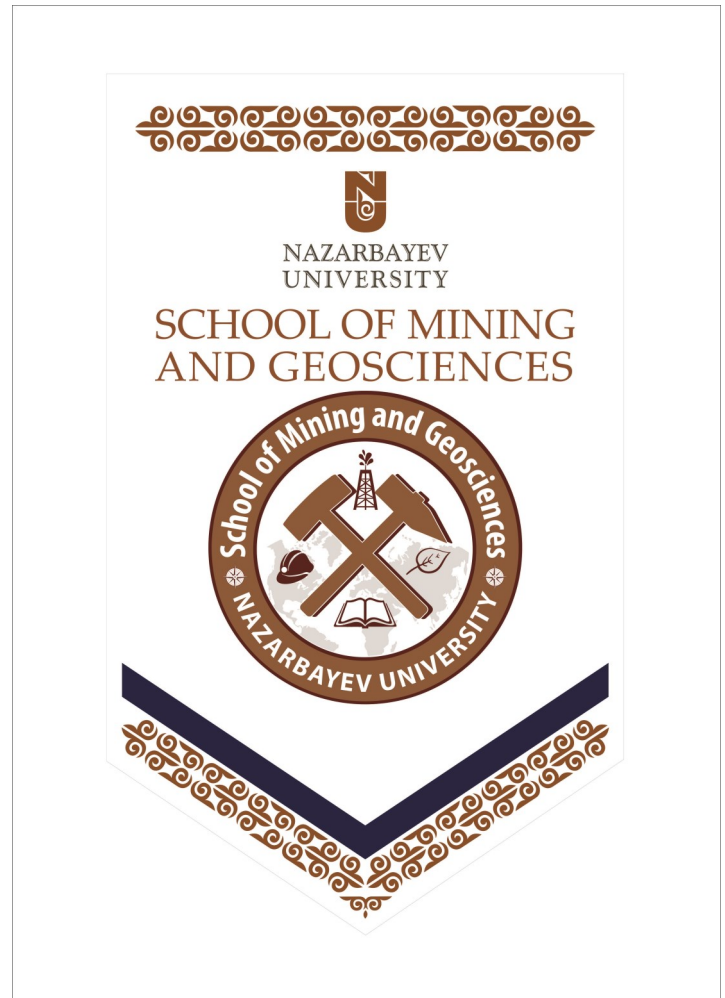
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**ET:** Although it is a proven fact that being an engineer and working in industry is more economically profitable, I chose to build my academic career further for a number of reasons. First of all, I really enjoy the dynamic environment at University. You always can create something new, especially working side by side with young generation of future engineers. Students are always creative and striving for something bigger than what already exists. Secondly, I really enjoy teaching new generation and sharing my professional experience with them. It is the type of work that always pays you back when you see that the seeds of knowledge you have planted blossomed in so many different ways. You feel like you are shaping new society of future mining engineers. So personally for me - life in academia is much more satisfying than any other job.

However, as engineer I have to admit that work experience in industry is highly important in your academic career as well. I worked with the industry as an employee, consultant and also also as a researcher. For example, I worked with the Company Rio Tinto in Australia, which is a leading global mining group that focuses on finding, mining and processing the Earth's mineral resources. This experience is still helping me a lot while I gave real case industry examples to my students and they solve real research problems that I encountered with. Another example would be Kiruna Mine (Sweden) which is the second largest and most modern underground mine in the world.

I still believe that every professor



especially in engineering at some point in his or her career has to be exposed to industry which can be as an employee, consultant or researcher, because this experience combined with fundamental knowledge benefits students tremendously.

**RSO:** Your previous work experience was in developed countries and in well-established Schools. The obvious question in this situation will be – what was the main reason for you to move to Kazakhstan and to choose newly established Nazarbayev University?

**ET:** As you have seen from my career path I had a chance to receive my

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knowledge from very reputed Mining Schools and work at the most prestigious programs in Mining. This experience was very beneficial for me as a Professor and as the Manager. I'm highly grateful for it. However, I never had a chance in my career to build a new School, to build a new University. I believe this is the organic continuation of my career – you learn the best practices and then you apply them for something completely new and unknown. Nazarbayev University gave me this opportunity to shape, to create and to become the founder of new School, new way of thinking, and new way of raising highly competitive engineers for a fast growing

country like Kazakhstan.

Another reason for me being here is my interest in country itself. The Republic of Kazakhstan possesses substantial amount of mineral and fossil fuel reserves. These natural resources will continue to play a vital role in Kazakhstan's economy especially in the short and medium-term time frames. Comparing to developed countries, Kazakhstan has more unexplored reserves. In case of good management of these resources the country will strive both economically and environmentally. School of Mining and Geoscience (hereinafter – School) has

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been established as the premier school for earth science education and research and to transform current knowledge and technology to develop an international quality, safe, efficient and environmentally responsible natural resource industry. This School will play significant role in shaping the bright future for Kazakhstan.

Moreover, School aims to be a world-class institution which develops new knowledge, talent and leadership within the area of natural resources. We plan to do this by educating highly qualified professionals and undergraduates with up-to-date knowledge and skills in earth science and related subjects, conducting world class research and producing venerable research outcomes in the fields of prospecting, extracting and processing of natural resources in safe, sustainable, and economical ways. We also plan to update current workforce with new international qualification and tackle current problems of the industry.

**RSO:** How do you plan to tackle current problems?

**ET:** Good question. In my opinion it should be a constant and never ending dialogue with industry companies about the current problems and potential solutions to them. We have already conducted a number of meetings with ERG, Tauken - Samruk, KazMinerals, KazmunaiGaz, Shlumberger and others.

From our School's side we plan to conduct a series of executive development courses where industry is

currently lacking with respect to knowledge and practice. For example, this summer, we plan to offer courses for Kazakhstani industry specialists on Mining feasibilities and planning as well as on Mining Cost estimation.

School will always share its knowledge and experience whenever it is possible or necessary for companies, which deals with natural resources in Kazakhstan. This is part of our mission.

**RSO:** Talking about School establishment, we believe it was quite hard to start the School from scratch. What was the most difficult part?

**ET:** The hardest thing was the absence of space and the basic infrastructure, which were needed for School to function. However, I considered it as an opportunity to shape everything the way we wanted and the way we needed. Nowadays we are in the process of establishing the labs, purchasing lab equipment, necessary books and journals, have already developed the main documents for the Schools like all bylaws, regulations and even handbook. Furthermore, we have already developed degree structure for MSc in Mining Engineering and hired Professors in Mining Engineering. We are also currently hiring for Petroleum Engineering.

It was a completely unique experience for me to create and shape something from scratch, when you need to think about every detail that School might need.

The learning process is still continuing,

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which is a very good thing. Another opportunity that NU gave me is to be the Dean of two Schools simultaneously. Currently I'm also the Interim Dean of School of Engineering. It gives me a chance to compare two NU Schools – one that exists 5 years and a completely new School. Experience at School of Engineering permitted me to use the best practices that were developed in one School and adopt them to another and adjust the practices if necessary. Furthermore, It also gives me an opportunity to initiate interdisciplinary environment between two schools.

**RSO:** What are the future plans of the School?

**ET:** The start of the first Program of our School – Masters' degree in Mining Engineering is scheduled for this fall. We have already hired 6 Professors and planning to hire 2 more. Next years will be more ambitious – we plan to start 3 undergraduate programs in Mining Engineering, Petroleum Engineering and Applied Geosciences and 1 more Master's in Petroleum Engineering. These programs will be developed in close collaboration with Colorado School of Mines - our strategic partner and world leader within the area of earth science education and research.

We also aim to develop various research programs for the prospecting, extraction, recovery and utilization of earth resources by employing sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches and to transfer the new discoveries for the benefit of society.

Library has already purchased all the necessary literature for faculty members and students. The labs for teaching and research should be ready by the time of program's start.

I'm also expecting our newly hired faculty to be research active and we plan to have some research output in terms of articles in top international journals in the area by the next year.

**RSO:** What are your long term plans?

**ET:** I might be sounding too ambitious, but my plan is to make our School be in the top 100 world Schools in our areas in the future 10 years. I truly believe it is a feasible goal to reach and we have all the necessary capabilities and resources for that.

**RSO:** What a goal! Our team wishes you the all the nest luck in your aspirations!

**ET:** Thank you! It was a pleasure to have an interview with RSO.

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# RESEARCH NEWS

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## How to Build a Bridge between Research and Innovation?

On the invitation of Nazarbayev University Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, Dr. Irfan Ahmad from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) visited NU from May 10-12, 2017. His program included a lecture, a workshop, and various meetings with NU administration, faculty, staff, including interactions with students, and UIUC alumni.

His lecture "Building a Research-based Innovation Ecosystem", based on the successful experience of the UIUC, highlighted some of the established components, which were integral to the development of a thriving innovation ecosystem, and can potentially be modeled by other higher education institutions (HEIs).

Dr. Ahmad's presentation quite effectively outlined the global challenges and the role of the HEIs in developing a response through research, education and training, entrepreneurship, and outreach, for a broad societal impact.

The main question posed by Dr. Ahmad is how professors undertake research that would lead to innovation. It is all about putting multidisciplinary teams together to work on research. There is a need in turning research knowledge into an economic value.



Dr. Ahmad says: "Academic institutions of higher learning are engines that generate new knowledge and research. However, to have a broad societal impact translation of this knowledge into commercial products and economic development is largely dependent on the existence of a research-based innovation ecosystem". The University has excelled in imparting education and now it is opportune time to build a bridge between research and innovation.

At NU campus Dr. Ahmad visited the School of Medicine, School of Engineering, School of Science and Technology, as well as the National Laboratory of Astana, TechnoPark. He expressed his admiration at the resources available to NU community, which according to him are the bedrock toward building a research-based innovation ecosystem.

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He also had bilateral meetings with the President Shigeo Katsu, Vice-President for Innovations Dr. Kanat Baigarin, Vice-President of International Cooperation Dr. Kadisha Dairova, and Provost Dr. Adesida. Dr. Ahmad also conducted a workshop for NU Research Services Office, where some of his recommendations were discussed, such as which strategic framework should

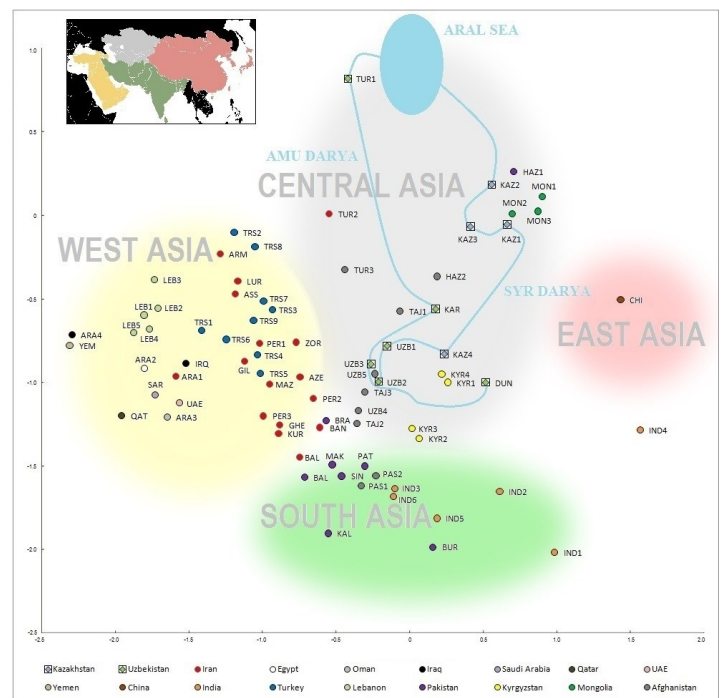
be developed in order to promote creativity and research-based innovation across the system and its suitability and adaptability to Kazakhstan. He also described the current structure of Research Office and the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Irfan Ahmad's presentation can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

## Secrets of Maverannah: where genetics depends on culture

Maxsat Zhabagin, researcher, Laboratory for Population Genetics, NLA in cooperation with Oleg Balanovsky, Elena Balanovska, Zhaxylyk Sabitov, Marina Kuznetsova, and others published a new work in *Scientific Reports* **7**, article number: 3085(2017).

Authors have analyzed Y-chromosomal variation in populations from Transoxiana, a historical region covering the southwestern part of Central Asia. They studied 780 samples from 10 regional populations of Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Dungans, and Karakalpaks using 35 SNP and 17 STR markers. Analysis of haplogroup frequencies using multidimensional scaling and principal component plots, supported by an analysis of molecular variance, showed that the geographic landscape of Transoxiana, despite its distinctiveness and diversity (deserts, fertile river basins, foothills and plains) had no strong influence on the genetic landscape. The main factor structuring the gene pool was the mode of subsistence: settled agriculture or nomadic pastoralism.



Investigation of STR-based clusters of haplotypes and their ages revealed that cultural and demic expansions of Transoxiana were not closely connected with each other. The Arab cultural expansion introduced Islam to the region but did not leave a significant mark on

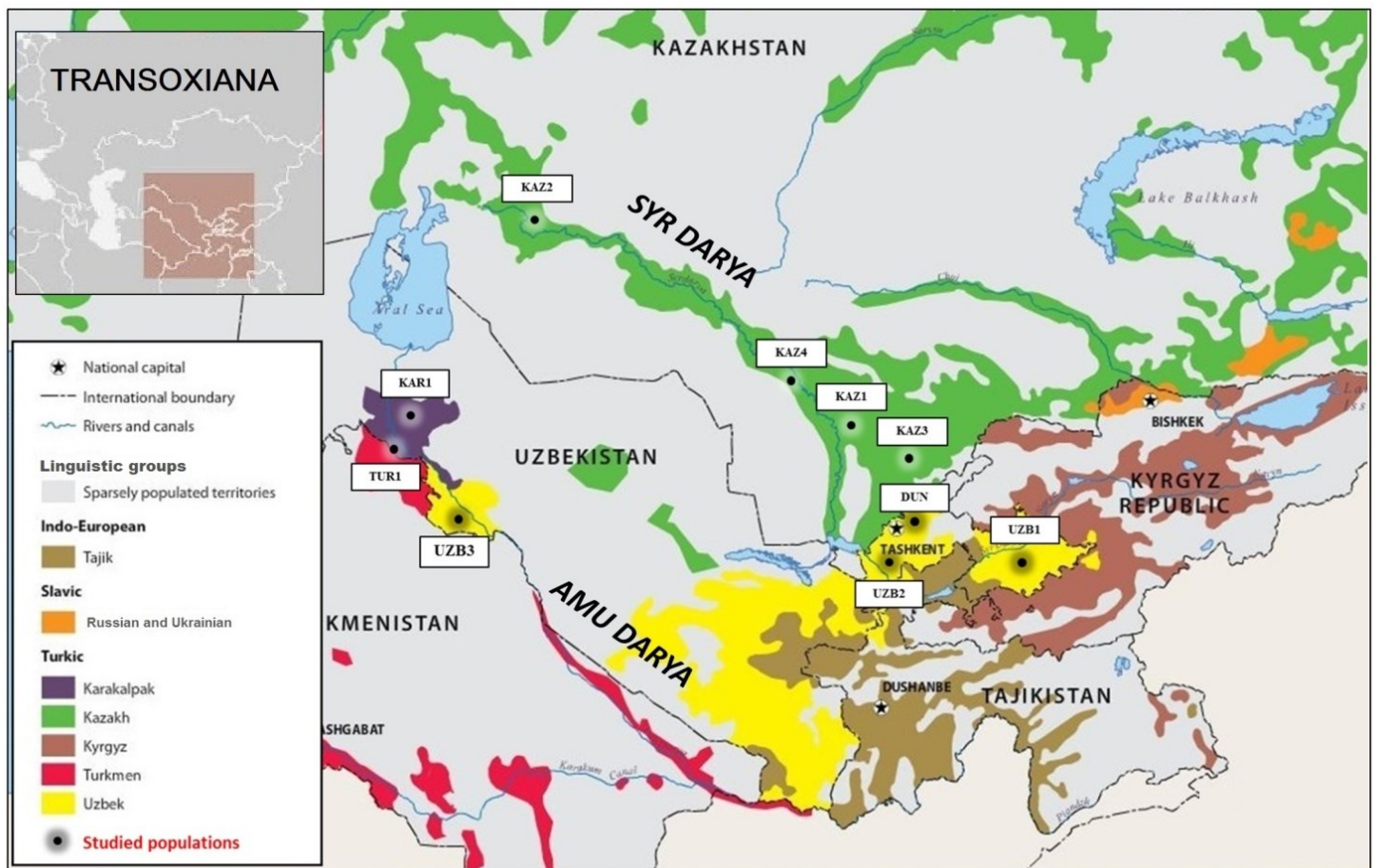
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the pool of paternal lineages. The Mongol expansion, in contrast, had enormous demographic success, but did not impact cultural elements like language and religion. The genealogy of Muslim missionaries within the settled agricultural communities of Transoxiana was based on spiritual succession passed from teacher to disciple. However, among Transoxianan nomads, spiritual

and biological succession became merged, leading to the formation of haplotype mini-clusters among nomadic clergy.

**More about the article on**  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-03176-z>



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# Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us: Can “soft power” save Europe?



Europe’s global image is better abroad than at home where it is daily battered by populists and Eurosceptics. Today, 5<sup>th</sup> May is Europe Day – a good time for a broader perspective as offered by scholars at a recent workshop organised by Nazarbayev University.

Europe’s concern about its self-image was the focus of the academics that attended the workshop in Malta on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April. They asked if the EU should take pride in how it is perceived abroad.

At a time when the European project is being portrayed in the press and by Eurosceptics as essentially over, Brussels is examining ways in which the use of soft power diplomacy can counter the naysayers.

Under the banner of the *Horizon 2020* project “European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy” (EL-CSID), researchers were looking at the

ways in which Europe’s interactions with other parts of the world through culture, science, innovation and health and showing how these channels could be used to increase mutual goodwill and understanding.

Professor of Political Science Neil Collins said that researchers, who have tracked the way in which Europe is portrayed abroad through the press and social media, report comparatively favourable coverage but warn against any diplomatic initiative that suggests a neo-colonial approach.

“Workshop participants gave cautious advice about linking security issues to cultural diplomacy. The role of European diasporas has also been researched with a view to seeing how these communities may be drawn more closely into the cultural and scientific life of their countries of origin,” said Professor Collins.

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As part of this research, academics from leading universities in Europe, Kazakhstan and Turkey met in Malta to review the EU's use of "soft power" to strengthen its image abroad.

"Particular attention was paid to how culture, science, innovation and health assistance was harnessed to reaffirm good relations with foreign publics. The focus of the workshop, held in St. Paul's Bay during Malta's presidency of the European Union, was on Europe's standing in the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa," explained Professor Collins.

Scientific Coordinator Luk Van Langenhove (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) showed how "alternative facts" could be tackled with science diplomacy that repositions Europe as a reliable partner in meeting sustainable development goals.

In February 2016, Prof. Neil Collins won the *Horizon 2020* grant by the European Commission, thus, bringing Nazarbayev University for 3-year period to the team of 8 leading academic institutions from Belgium, UK, Germany, Slovenia and France to work on the research project launched on 1st March with the theme "European Leadership in Cultural, Scientific and Innovation Diplomacy" (EL-CSID).

At the workshop Nazarbayev University was represented by Prof. Neil Collins and Kristina Bekenova, Research Assistant. Dr Collins together with Kristina Bekenova presented their research "EU cultural diplomacy: Diaspora Relations with Kazakhstan" during the third panel "Gone but not forgotten – role of diaspora in EU cultural diplomacy". Based on a case

study of long-established diasporas living in post-independence Kazakhstan and their relationship with their European "homelands" they offered a typology that classifies diaspora as a facilitator of interaction between states in four groups: valued, nominal, expressive and symbolic. Some European countries foster close and enduring links while others miss the opportunity to tap this ready source of positive input for Europe.

## Contact

To learn more about this workshop, please contact

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E-mail: [neil.collins@nu.edu.kz](mailto:neil.collins@nu.edu.kz)

This workshop is part of a project that has received funding from the **European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°693799**



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## National Laboratory Astana is to open a joint laboratory in Medicine in Shanghai, China



**On this photo:** Shigeo Katsu, NU president; Zhaxybay Zhumadilov, General Director NLA; Tursonjan Tokay, professor, NU with the Chinese



**On this photo:** Tursonjan Tokay, professor, NU during the opening ceremony of the sign «Joint International Laboratory of Medicine, Tongren Hospital –National Laboratory Astana».

National Laboratory Astana and Tongren Hospital in Shanghai, China, a major research medical center of the city, will open a Joint International laboratory in Medicine, where different studies of gastrointestinal tract tumors, diseases of neurology, cardiovascular system, as well as issues related to aging and diseases associated with aging processes will be conducted.

According to Professor Zhaxybay Zhumadilov, General Director of the National Laboratory Astana, who took direct part in all the negotiations with Chinese colleagues, the launch of a joint Kazakh-Chinese project is a mutually beneficial cooperation for both sides, and it will be very helpful for scientists to exchange experience and knowledge more quickly in solving the most important problems of medicine.

# The sixth annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum (EHELF)



On May 31 and June, 1, 2017 Nazarbayev University held the sixth annual Eurasian Higher Education Leaders' Forum (EHELF). Over six years the Forum has become an annual event uniting leaders, policy makers, practitioners and students who are enthusiastic about raising pressing issues and challenges in the higher education sector and tackling over solutions. Over than 380 participants from 7 countries attended the Forum this year and contributed their expertise to discussions.

This year the EHELF gathering focused on the issues of "Governance, Management and Leadership in Higher Education" that served as the main theme of the Forum, for it is the trend all over the world which

attracts attention of policy makers, researchers, and practitioners. The program included two streams: a conference with sessions and workshops on sharing Nazarbayev University experience.

Shigeo Katsu, President of Nazarbayev University, welcomed EHELF participants to the event followed by Secretary of the State of the Republic of Kazakhstan Gulshara Abdykalikova's video message which highlighted the significance of the topic chosen for the Forum. Aida Sagintayeva, Dean of Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education, exposed empirical findings from a research project on implementing

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university autonomy conducted in Kazakhstani higher education institutions. The Project was conducted by NUGSE in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. Dilbar Gimranova, Director of Higher School of Economics at KAZGUU University, summarized crucial points related to autonomy in higher education.

Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost of Nazarbayev University, moderated the plenary session with three keynote speakers: Judith MacCormick, Managing Director of BoardFocus Advisory in Australia, Assylbek Kozhakhmetov, President of Almaty Management University, and David Lock, Secretary-General of the Magna Carta Observatory in the UK.

Three panel sessions gathered experts in the following areas: good management practices, including issues of financial management and HR management, student leadership and academic leadership. Sessions devoted to sharing Nazarbayev University's experience focused on the following aspects:

- Role of quantitative methods in education research;
- Holistic approach in higher education;



- Introducing shared governance to the Department of Kazakh Language at Nazarbayev University;
- Modern Kazakhstani culture in a global world;
- Enhancing graduate employability through employer relations;
- Institutional quality assurance and enhancement processes;
- Effective teaching strategies (use of cooperative learning) at higher education institutions;
- Teaching research and supervision of Master and PhD programs: experience of Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education.

The program of the Forum and more information on EHELF are available at <http://ehelf.nu.edu.kz>



# Environmental Science & Technology Group (ESTg) news

1. Environmental Science and Technology Group (ESTg) and Fondazione Alessandro Volta (Italy) co-organise the symposium "Our Common Future: Energy, Environment & Development", which will be held in the framework of the EXPO2017 at the Italian Pavilion are 30 and 31 August 2017. Also, a student's contest has been announced the subject being "Beyond Future Energy: The Energy Sources of the Deep Future".



Environmental  
Science &  
Technology Group

2. Dr Inglezakis, leader of ESTg group, has been recently appointed as an Honorary Associate, an official faculty and staff position, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**Civil and  
Environmental Engineering**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

3. ESTg established collaboration with the Lawrence Berkeley National laboratory (LBNL), California (US). Dr Inglezakis has been invited as LBNL Research Affiliate to visit the premises of the Molecular Foundry, managed and operated by the University of California, Berkeley.



The poster has a blue background with a yellow border. At the top, it lists logos for Nazarbayev University, Expo 2017, Fondazione Alessandro Volta, and Fondazione Cariplo. Below these, it says "FONDAZIONE ALESSANDRO VOLTA (ITALY) AND NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY PRESENT". The main title "BEYOND-FUTURE ENERGY STUDENT PAPER CONTEST" is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, it lists prizes: "1ST PLACE WINNER - 150 EUR" and "2ND PLACE WINNER - 50 EUR". The deadline "DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TOPIC AND ABSTRACT: JULY 5, 2017" is also included. At the bottom, there is a logo for SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers) and the text "FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: WWW.VK.COM/NU\_SPE".



4. On 16<sup>th</sup> of May Portfolio companies of Samruk-Kazyna JSC and Nazarbayev University signed roadmaps for the creation of research laboratories. Dr Inglezakis is representing Chemical Engineering Department and School of Engineering in the discussions with the United Chemicals Company (UCC).

5. ESTg is launching two recently awarded projects; one from private sector entity "Karachaganak Petroleum Operating" and one ORAU-funded.

- Study of Oil Pipeline Corrosion, funded by the private entity "Karachaganak Petroleum Operating" (KPO)
- Development of municipal solid waste combustion and incineration technology for Astana (Kazakhstan) and investigation of municipal solid waste blending effects on reactivity of coals in CFB combustion and gasification processes, ORAU-funded project

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## Research News from the Graduate School of Public Policy



coming decades, Southeast Asia bubbles with optimism. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been establishing itself as a platform for Asian integrations and cooperation, working with other Asian nations to promote unity, prosperity, development and sustainability of the region, as well as working on solutions to resolve disputes and problems in the region. While mainly focusing on the Asia-Pacific nations, ASEAN also established communications with other parts of the world, to better promote world peace and stability.



The ASEAN Miracle is the latest book of Kishore Mahbubani that was published by NUS Press in March 2017. More information on his writings can be found at [www.mahbubani.net](http://www.mahbubani.net).

### **LECTURE BY DEAN KISHORE MAHBUBANI, LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, ON "ASEAN AT 50 AND LESSONS FOR CENTRAL ASIA"**

Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore delivered a lecture on "ASEAN at 50 and Lessons for Central Asia" at Nazarbayev University on 30 May, 2017.

In an era of growing economic pessimism, where many young people believe that their lives will get worse in

### **ETHICS IN CIVIL SERVICE: "THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE", MENTALITY OR MISSION POSSIBLE? BY SALTANAT JANENOVA**

There is a surge of attention on the ethics of civil servants in Kazakhstan. The Kazakh Government is concerned about manifestations of unethical behavior among civil servants and public outcry as a reaction to the facts of improper behavior of some officials. The New Code of Ethics for civil servants was adopted in autumn 2015, and since January 2016, ethics commissioners have been introduced to local and central government agencies for the first time. In their practice, Ethics commissioners are

*(Continued on page 21)*



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currently facing problems that hamper their work in promotion of ethics among civil servants. [This article](#) discusses the top 5 reasons for the lack of effectiveness of Ethics commissioners.

## **PAPER ON COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS IN CANADA AND KAZAKHSTAN**

GSPP Assistant Professor Saltanat Janenova, and Mr Iliyas Yesdauletov from the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, published a paper in the International Journal of Civil Service Reform and Practice (IJCSR). This paper is based on a conference paper about comparative perspectives of the public service reforms in Canada and Kazakhstan that they presented in September 2016. Click [here](#) for the full paper.

## **GSPP WINS THE BEST PAPER AWARD**

GSPP Dean Prof. Weng Tat Hui, Prof. Riccardo Pelizzo, GSPP Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Saltanat Janenova and Prof. Colin Knox took part in the Annual Conference of the Asian

Association of Public Administration (<http://aapa.asia/>) held in Astana on 13-14 April 2017.

At this conference Dr. Saltanat Janenova and Prof. Colin Knox won the Best Paper Award for their paper "Civil Service Reform in Kazakhstan: trajectory to the thirty most developed countries? This paper considers whether civil service reforms in Kazakhstan to date and those envisaged under the new plan offer a trajectory to the 2050 stated goal – to join 30 most developed countries. It finds that civil service reforms have focused on institutional, structural and legal changes without the necessary attention to how these will impact on the quality of public services provision. There is a disconnect between civil service reforms and how to achieve an outcomes based approach which has the potential to improve the everyday lives of Kazakh citizens through better public services. The paper highlights the interdependence between civil service reforms and an outcome based approach and adapts the OECD Better Life framework for Kazakhstan as a way of making this connection.

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## Conference at SHSS:

## Eurasian Migration, Past & Present —

## Living Cross-Cultural Lives

School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized an interdisciplinary international conference “Eurasian Migration, Past & Present—Living Cross-Cultural Lives” on May 18-19, 2017.

The conference participants from 8 different countries gathered at NU to share their thoughts and research findings on a topic—migration—that is of urgent importance in modern Eurasia.

It was a very productive conference with 7 panel sessions discussing the topic of migration in several Eurasian countries from different perspectives. The Eurasian Studies Program team at SHSS is planning the publication of an edited



*Dungans in the village of Karakunuz (modern-day Masanchi), 1909. Source: <http://rus-turk.livejournal.com/340163.html>*

journal issue from the papers presented at the conference.

## Swiss-Kazakh International Seminar on

## “Smart Sustainable Cities”

**By Dr. Luis Rojas-Solórzano**

'This past 14-15 of June 2017, it was held the Swiss-Kazakh International Seminar on "Smart Sustainable Cities" at Nazarbayev University. The event was a total success with the participation of more than 30 international speakers from more than 10 different institutions (Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Russia, USA and Germany). The experts presented their vision and current research on Smart

Cities in the area of Smart: Building, Transportation, Grid, Environment and Funding.

The event was co-organized by NU, Swissnex, Swissuniversities, ZHAW, IET-On Campus and NU Institution of Mechanical Engineering and counted with the support from many international and national organizations shown in the

*(Continued on page 23)*



*(Continued from page 22)*

brochure. See more details at: <https://seng.nu.edu.kz/news/swiss-kazakh-joint-international-seminar-on-towards-smart-sustainable-cities-integrated-approaches/>

A Student Poster Competition was held with participation of NU students. Awards were a courtesy of Swissnex.

National performers of Kazakh music (Dombra players, singer and Meruyert's Club of Dance) delighted the audience during the coffee breaks.

A final round-table and social event was held at Swiss Pavillion of EXPO-2017 to facilitate peer discussion on research cooperation and funding opportunities.'

The information about the event (organizers and content) is available at: <https://seng.nu.edu.kz/news/swiss-kazakh-joint-international-seminar-on-towards-smart-sustainable-cities-integrated-approaches/>

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# Executive workshop on 'Systems engineering and process management' at the ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry

On Thursday 15 June 2017 professors Christos Spitas and Serik Khairaliyev and their team from the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the School of Engineering conducted a workshop at the Ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry in Astana, titled 'Systems engineering and process management'.

The workshop focused on advanced machine and aerospace systems design methodologies and design innovation process management models being developed by the group of professor Spitas at Nazarbayev University and a number of global industrial and academic partners including the Delft University of Technology and the National Technical University of Athens. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry and was attended by a number of top level executives and division directors from the organizations Kazakhstan Garysh Sapary, National Centre for Space Research and Technology, Republican Centre of Space Communication, Institute of Space Technique and Technology, and Ghalam and by the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the School of Engineering, Prof. Dr. Soo Lee Teh.



development in the currently running projects NANOCAST and HYST.

A list of participants can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#).

The conducted workshop falls under a larger umbrella of agreed collaborative actions between the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry and its dependent organizations, including technology transfer, research training of top talent, and collaborative research and



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# Research news from the the Department of Biomedical Sciences, NUSOM

In this month's issue, the Department of Biomedical Sciences of NUSOM shares the information on their recent achievements in research.

## Publications:

Basic and applied anatomy Anatomical morphometry of the tibial plateau in South Indian population. Bukkambudhi Virupakshamurthy Murlimanju, **Chetan Purushothama**, Ankit Srivastava, Chettiar Ganesh Kumar , Ashwin Krishnamurthy , Vandana Blossom , Latha Venkatraya Prabhu , Vasudha Vittal Saralaya , Mangala Manohar Pai. Basic and applied anatomy Anatomical morphometry of the tibial plateau in South Indian population. *Italian journal of Anatomy and Embryology*. Vol. 121, n. 3: 258-264, 2016.

Cutting Edge: IgE Plays an Active Role in Tumor Immunosurveillance in Mice.

Nigro EA, Brini AT, Yenagi VA, Ferreira LM, Achatz-Straussberger G, Ambrosi A, Sanvito F, Soprana E, van Anken E, Achatz G, Siccardi AG, **Vangelista L**.

J Immunol. 2016 Oct 1;197(7):2583-8. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.1601026.

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy for black lipid membranes fused with channel protein supported on solid-state nanopore.

Khan MS, Dosoky NS, **Berdiev BK**, Williams JD.

Eur Biophys J. 2016 Dec;45(8):843-852.

Reallocation of Olfactory Cajal-Retzius Cells Shapes Neocortex Architecture.

de Frutos CA, Bouvier G, Arai Y, Thion MS, Lokmane L, Keita M, Garcia-Dominguez M, Charnay P, Hirata T, **Riethmacher D**, Grove EA, Tissir F, Casado M, Pierani A, Garel S.

Neuron. 2016 Oct 19;92(2):435-448. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2016.09.020.

AllergoOncology - the impact of allergy in oncology: EAACI position paper.

Jensen-Jarolim E, Bax HJ, Bianchini R, Capron M, Corrigan C, Castells M, Dombrowicz D, Daniels-Wells TR, Fazekas J, Fiebiger E, Gatault S, Gould HJ, Janda J, Josephs DH, Karagiannis P, Levi-Schaffer F, Meshcheryakova A, Mechtcheriakova D, Mekori Y, Mungenast F, Nigro EA, Penichet ML, Redegeld F, Saul L, Singer J, Spicer JF, Siccardi AG, Spillner E, Turner MC, Untersmayr E, **Vangelista L**, Karagiannis SN.

Allergy. 2017 Jun;72(6):866-887. doi: 10.1111/all.13119. Epub 2017 Jan 23

Application of molecular genotyping to determine prevalence of HPV strains in Pap smear samples of Kazakhstan women. Luiza Niyazmetova, Gulzhanat Aimagambetova, Nazigul Stambekova, Zaurech Abugaliev, Korlukain Seksembayeva, **Syed Ali and Azliyati Azizan**. (2017). International Journal of Infectious Diseases. 54: 85-88

(Continued on page 26)

## Accepted and In-Press

Dengue virus NS1 protein as a diagnostic marker: commercially available ELISA and comparison to qRT-PCR and serological diagnostic assays currently used by the state of Florida. Jason H. Ambrose, Shamala Devi Sekaran, and **Azliyati Azizan**. , to be published in Journal of Tropical Medicine. Article ID 8072491

**Several Members of faculty attended conferences to present their research or will do with already accepted presentations. An excerpt from these activities is listed below:**

Chee Kai Chan.

Almaty on April 14th at the "Autism. Situation, realities and prospects in Kazakhstan" Forum/Conference which was held in the Kazakh National Medical University (KazNMU).

Chetan Purushothama:

Human Anatomy & Physiology society 2017 at Salt Lake city, Utah, USA.

**Poster presentation** at Human Anatomy & Physiology society 2017, Salt Lake city, Utah, USA.: "Divisions of Main Trunk of Left Coronary Artery in Adult Human Cadaver Hearts"

Otilia Nuta.

Meeting: 4th Asian Congress for Radiation Research, August 2017, Astana

Title 1: Ionising radiation induced genomic instability in human fibroblasts and modulating effects of

telomerase activities in different processes of DNA DSB repair

Title 2: An *in-vitro* cytogenetic assessment of the impact of long-term exposure to chemical agents on radiation responses

Azliyati Azizan:

Poster Session Title: Scientific Poster Presentations, Poster Number 356. 33rd Annual Clinical Virology Symposium, May 7-10, 2017 in Savannah, GA, USA.

**Azliyati Azizan**, Lyudmila Trenozhnikova, A. Bogoyavlenskiy, P. Alexyuk, I. Zaitseva and Vladimir Berezin. Preliminary study to screen extremophile microorganisms and plant extracts from unique ecosystems of Kazakhstan as potential producers of novel antiviral agents.

International Workshop "Antibiotic Resistant Strains" on June 22, 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Oral Presentation Title: "Extremophiles from unique ecosystems of Kazakhstan as potential producers of novel antibiotics".

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## Research news from the Graduate School of Business



## Graduate School of Business

Dr. Atanu Rakshit and Dr. Dmitry Khanin of GSB received the first prize for their paper **"Does Non-Family CEO Advantage Depend on Firm Growth and Area of Management Practice? A Contingency Perspective" at the Family Enterprise Research Conference (FERC) that took place in Asheville, North Carolina (USA) in the beginning of June, 2017.**

FERC is the top conference in the family business studies in the world. Applying a contingency perspective, Dr. Rakshit and Dr. Khanin conjecture that the advantage of non-family CEOs (NFCs) over family CEOs (FCs) depends on family firm's growth stage and area of management practice (MP). Their re-examination of the data collected as part of the World Management Survey (WMS) demonstrates that the NFC advantage exhibits an inverted U shape and varies across MP

areas. Hence, family owners may choose an FC vs. NFC as the top manager depending on family firm's growth stage and its need to improve performance in a certain MP. Dr. Rakshit and Dr. Khanin also explain how FCs could catch up to NFCs in various areas of management practice. In the picture below, Dr. Dmitry Khanin is presenting the paper at the FERC.

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# GRANTS & COMPETITIONS

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## New Funding Opportunities



Image Source: [Dixie State University](#)

**We have identified new funding opportunities, all of which are suitable for the researchers based in Kazakhstan.**

For your convenience, we also added funding opportunities listed in the previous issues of the Research Newsletter. The information on them can be found in the same Excel document.

For more information, please [click here](#).

## "Original – isn't it?" New Options for the Humanities and Cultural Studies



With this new funding offer the Foundation wishes to encourage scholars in the humanities and cultural studies to embark on projects of groundbreaking originality. Funding will be made available for initial exploration of the research idea.

With this funding initiative the Foundation is also treading new paths concerning the application and selection procedure – in at least three different ways: In order to expedite processing and enable decisions in between 4 to 5 months, the selection procedure has

been trimmed and made as straightforward as possible. There is also an innovative review process, combining pre-selection on the part of the Volkswagen Foundation, and final selection by a panel of experts. Anonymized review ensures that the originality of the idea remains the sole *selection criterion*.

**Budget: 80,000-150,000 EUR**

**Deadline: 15 November 2017**

Details on the conditions and the application procedure can be found under **Information for Applicants (pdf)**. Applications must be filed electronically via the electronic application system.

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## Policy, Advocacy, and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health (PACE)

The purpose of this APS is to publicize the United States Government's (USG) plan to fund up to three (3) cooperative agreements (hereafter called agreements) for a period of five (5) years each, through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Washington Global Health Bureau (GH) to address the overarching APS Program Purpose of assuring family planning and population issues are included in policies and programs as key to sustainable and equitable economic growth and development. Its sub-purpose is increased political and financial



commitment for FP/RH at global, national, and decentralized levels.

Total budget: 55 Million USD

Deadline: 12 March 2020

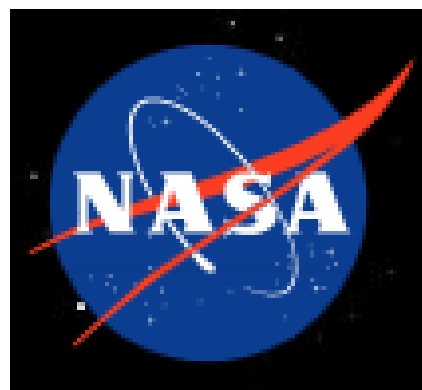
Useful link:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=275168>

## Research opportunities in space and earth sciences 2017 (ROSES-2017)

Overarching programmatic goals include:

1. Understanding and quantifying the impacts and feedbacks of Earth System processes, particularly oceanographic mechanisms, on the global and regional spatial and temporal variability of ocean biology and ecology, including phytoplankton and organisms from other trophic levels;
2. Understanding and quantifying the impacts and feedbacks of Earth System processes, particularly oceanographic mechanisms, on the global and regional spatial and temporal variability of ocean biogeochemistry, including carbon sources and sinks and the fate of other chemical species or components in the ocean;
3. Exploring the development of new



biological, ecological, and biogeochemical observations beyond traditional ocean color (e.g., phytoplankton chlorophyll a) from space-based assets, as well as furthering the climate research enabled by existing time series of climate observations (Earth System Data Records); and

4. Improving future climate predictions

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(impacts and feedbacks) by incorporating a dynamic understanding of ocean biology, ecology, and biogeochemistry into global biogeochemical and ecological models to understand the ocean's role in the Earth System.

Eligibility: NASA does not normally fund foreign research proposals or foreign research efforts that are part of U.S.

research proposals. Rather, cooperative research efforts are implemented via international agreements between NASA and the sponsoring foreign agency or funding/sponsoring institution under which the parties agree to each bear the cost of discharging their respective responsibilities.

**Deadline: 01-JUN-2018**

Please click [here](#) to find more information.

## Abe Fellowship

# Abe Fellowship

International multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) announce the annual Abe Fellowship Program competition. Funding for the Abe Fellowship Program is provided by CGP.

### The Purpose of the Fellowship

The Abe Fellowship is designed to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics. It strives especially to promote a new level of intellectual cooperation between the Japanese and American academic and professional communities committed to and trained for advancing global understanding and problem

solving.

Research support to individuals is at the core of the Abe Fellowship Program. Applications are welcome from scholars and nonacademic research professionals. The objectives of the program are to foster high quality research in the social sciences and related disciplines, to build new collaborative networks of researchers around the four thematic foci of the program, to bring new data and new data resources to the attention of those researchers, and to obtain from them a commitment to a comparative or transnational line of inquiry.

Successful applicants will be those individuals whose work and interests match these program goals. Abe Fellows are expected to demonstrate a long-term commitment to these goals by participating in program activities over the

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course of their careers.

#### The Abe Fellowship Research Agenda

Applicants are invited to submit proposals for research in the social sciences and related disciplines relevant to any one or any combination of the four themes below. The themes are:

1) Threats to Personal, Societal, and International Security  
Especially welcome topics include food, water, and energy insecurity; pandemics; climate change; disaster preparedness, prevention, and recovery; and conflict, terrorism, and cyber security.

2) Growth and Sustainable Development  
Especially welcome topics include global financial stability, trade imbalances and agreements, adjustment to globalization, climate change and adaptation, and poverty and inequality.

3) Social, Scientific, and Cultural Trends and Transformations  
Especially welcome topics include aging and other demographic change, benefits and dangers of reproductive genetics, gender and social exclusion, expansion of STEM education among women and under-represented populations, migration, rural depopulation and urbanization, impacts of automation on jobs, poverty and inequality, and community resilience.

4) Governance, Empowerment, and Participation  
Especially welcome topics include challenges to democratic institutions, participatory governance, human rights, the changing role of NGO/NPOs, the rise of new media, and government roles in

fostering innovation.

Across the program's four dominant themes, projects should demonstrate important contributions to intellectual and/or policy debates and break new theoretical or empirical ground. Within this framework, priority is given to research projects that help formulate solutions that promote a more peaceful, stable, and equitable global society or ameliorate the challenges faced by communities worldwide. Applicants are expected to show how the proposed project goes beyond previous work on the topic and builds on prior skills to move into new intellectual terrain.

Please note that the purpose of this Fellowship is to support research activities. Therefore, projects whose sole aim is travel, cultural exchange, and/or language training will not be considered. However, funds for language tutoring or refresher courses in the service of research goals will be included in the award if the proposal includes explicit justification for such activities.

#### **Policy-Relevant, Contemporary, and Comparative or Transnational Research**

Rather than seeking to promote greater understanding of a single country—Japan or the United States—the Abe Fellowship Program encourages research with a comparative or global perspective. The program promotes deeply contextualized cross-cultural research.

The Abe Fellowship Program Committee seeks applications for research explicitly focused on policy-relevant and contemporary issues with a comparative or transnational perspective that draw the

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study of the United States and Japan into wider disciplinary or theoretical debates.

### Policy Relevance

The program defines policy-relevant research as the study of existing public policies for the purpose of (a) deepening understanding of those policies and their consequences and (b) formulating more effective policies. Policy relevance can also be found in research questions that are pertinent to understanding public dialogue on contemporary issues of concern to various sectors of society. All proposals are expected to directly address policy relevance in theme, project description, and project structure.

### Contemporary Focus

The program is concerned with present day issues and debates. Thus, proposals in history or with a historical component must demonstrate how the research is specifically intended to inform contemporary concerns.

### Comparative or Transnational Perspectives

The Abe Fellowship Program does not support research on a single country. Priority is accorded to comparisons of processes, problems, and issues across time and space. Successful proposals will explicitly address how the project will be comparative or transnational in construction and goals.

Typically projects involve data collection in more than one country or across several time periods. Data from a single country may be collected under the

auspices of the fellowship only if the purpose of collecting that data is explicitly comparative or transnational. Single-country proposals that merely imply that the data have broader comparative relevance will be eliminated from the fellowship competition. Further, it is not sufficient for a proposal to implicitly suggest a comparative perspective because of the pervasive or global distribution of the phenomenon being studied.

### Eligibility

- This competition is open to citizens of the United States and Japan as well as to nationals of other countries who can demonstrate strong and serious long-term affiliations with research communities in Japan or the United States.
- Applicants must hold a PhD or the terminal degree in their field, or have attained an equivalent level of professional experience at the time of application.
- Previous language training is not a prerequisite for this fellowship. However, if the research project requires language ability, the applicant should provide evidence of adequate proficiency to complete the project.
- Applications from researchers in professions other than academia are encouraged with the expectation that the product of the fellowship will contribute to the wider body of knowledge on the topic specified.
- Projects proposing to address key policy issues or seeking to develop a concrete policy proposal must reflect nonpartisan positions.

Please note: Past recipients of the Abe Fellowship are ineligible. You may hold only one fellowship sponsored by the

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Japan Foundation, which includes the Abe Fellowship, during any one Japanese fiscal year, which runs from April 1 through March 31. Current recipients of a Japan Foundation Fellowship and those who will commence that fellowship by March 31, 2017, are ineligible to apply for an Abe Fellowship in 2016. Fellowship awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

#### Fellowship Terms

Terms of the fellowship are flexible and are designed to meet the needs of researchers at different stages in their careers. The program provides Abe Fellows with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 months of full-time support over a 24-month period. Fellowship tenure must begin between April 1 and December 31 of a given year. Fellowship tenure need not be continuous, but must be concluded within 24 months of initial activation of the fellowship.

- The fellowship is intended to support an individual researcher, regardless of whether that individual is working alone or in collaboration with others.
- Candidates should propose to spend at least one third of the fellowship tenure in residence abroad in Japan or the United States. In addition, the Abe Fellowship Committee reserves the right to recommend additional networking opportunities overseas.
- Abe Fellows will be expected to affiliate with an American or Japanese institution appropriate to their research. Fellowship funds may also be spent on additional residence and

fieldwork in third countries as appropriate to individual projects. Fellows will be required to attend specific Abe Fellowship Program events.

#### Applications

The application deadline is September 1 annually. Applications must be submitted online at <https://soap.ssrc.org>. For further information, please contact the program directly at [abe@ssrc.org](mailto:abe@ssrc.org).

#### In the US

A b e F e l l o w s h i p P r o g r a m  
S o c i a l S c i e n c e R e s e a r c h C o u n c i l  
O n e P i e r r e p o n t P l a z a , 1 5 t h F l o o r  
B r o o k l y n , N Y 1 1 2 0 1 U S A  
E m a i l : [abe@ssrc.org](mailto:abe@ssrc.org)

Tel: 212-377-2700 / Fax: 212 377-2727

#### In Japan

A b e F e l l o w s h i p P r o g r a m  
S S R C T o k y o O f f i c e  
c / o J a p a n F o u n d a t i o n  
C e n t e r f o r G l o b a l P a r t n e r s h i p  
S h i n j u k u G y o e n m a e B u i l d i n g , 6 F  
4 - 1 6 - 3 Y o t s u y a , S h i n j u k u - k u T o k y o 1 6 0 -  
0 0 0 4

E m a i l : [ssrcABE@gol.com](mailto:ssrcABE@gol.com)  
Tel: 3-5369-6085 / Fax: 3-5369-6142

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# FONDS SUEZ INITIATIVES



The vocation of the Fonds SUEZ initiatives is to **combat exclusion by favoring inclusion** and **consequently sustainably improving the living conditions and autonomy of persons via access to essential services and social insertion.**

The Fonds supports concrete actions in favor of:

- **Access to essential services** (water, sanitation and waste) **for disadvantaged populations in developing countries;**
- **The insertion of vulnerable populations** thanks to employment and training **in France;**

This workspace enables you to submit applications to receive support and financing for your projects from the Fonds SUEZ initiatives.

***Before submitting your project application, please refer to the information below.***

- **Requests for support and financing can be submitted at any moment,** but will be processed according to the following schedule:
- **Project applications received**

**before 31/10 will be presented at the Board of Directors Meeting in April,** depending on the results of their initial assessment.

- **Project applications received before 30/04 will be presented at the Board of Directors Meeting in October,** depending on the results of their initial assessment.

- This workspace has the objective of optimising the application submission process by providing you with a step-by-step guide enabling you to describe your project using a **series of pre-formatted "forms";**

To **check the eligibility of your project,** please refer to the [Fonds SUEZ initiatives selection criteria.](#)

- At every stage / on every screen of your financing request application, **precisions and online help are available** to help you to best describe your project.

- You can save **your project application at any time in order to add to it, amend it, modify it as much as necessary prior to submission;** all of the information added before submission can only be viewed by yourself.

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- **Re-read your project application carefully prior to its submission. Once it has been submitted online, the project assessment and selection process is launched;** an e-mail confirming the receipt of your application will be automatically addressed to you, along with a summary of the information inputted and a **project identification number. From this moment, it will no longer be possible to modify information.**

- The submission of applications to request financing from the Fund, or any possible exchanges with the Fonds team, have no influence on the subsequent decisions taken by the Fonds SUEZ initiatives whose choices are made independently.

**The Fonds SUEZ initiatives structures its actions according to a set of basic principles:**

- **The active implication of the populations concerned,** which constitutes the first step towards achieving their autonomy,
- The **reinforcement of knowledge and expertise,** via awareness-raising and training for all of the stakeholders: populations and local players,
- The **sustainability** of the projects,
- Support for **innovation,**
- **A joint commitment** with partners, according to a relationship based on mutual respect, a listening ear and joint development.

Applications follow a three-stage selection

process:

### **1. Pre-selection**

The Fonds team examine applications according to a set of technical, financial, geographical, operational, time- and governance-related criteria...

### **2. Assessment**

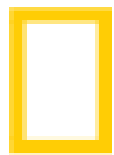
The applications selected are transferred for the opinion of 4 experts, members of Group personnel, who, on a voluntary basis, use their expertise to assess the projects in keeping with project eligibility criteria (see above).

### **3. Decision**

Pre-selected projects are submitted to the Fonds's decision-making bodies for selection and final approval. These bodies then vote on whether or not to provide financing and/ or expertise to support a project. A partnership agreement is then signed, and a referent is appointed among the people having assessed the project. He or she participates in project monitoring alongside the Foundation team (reports, meetings, assessment mission...).

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# National Geographic Society: Seeking Applications for Standard Grant Program



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | SOCIETY

The National Geographic Society is seeking applications for its Standard Grant Program to award [grants](#) for research, conservation, [education](#), and storytelling through its Committee for Research and Exploration.

National Geographic Society grant-funded projects should be bold, innovative, and transformative.

The National Geographic Society is a nonprofit scientific and educational [organization](#) dedicated to exploring our planet, protecting wildlife and habitats, and helping assure that students in K-12 are geographically literate.

## Three Lenses

- **The Human Journey:** The Human Journey supports projects that explore and document the human experience through time to preserve and celebrate shared heritage.
- **Wildlife and Wild Places:** Wildlife and Wild Places supports projects that explore and document the Earth's biodiversity to better understand and conserve species, habitats, processes, and ecosystems (marine and terrestrial).

**Our Changing Planet:** Our Changing Planet supports projects that explore and document Earth and ocean systems in the present, past, and future to better understand and

protect the evolving [environment](#).

## [Funding Information](#)

Standard Grant: Typically up to US \$30,000

## Project Focus

- Research
- Conservation
- Education
- Storytelling
- Technology

## Eligibility Criteria

National Geographic welcomes applications from around the world, and specifically encourages applicants from outside the [United States](#) to apply.

- Applicants planning to work outside of their home country should include at least one local collaborator on their team.
- The Committee will not usually consider applications that support strictly laboratory or collections work.
- Grants are awarded on the basis of merit and exist independent of the Society's other divisions.

## How to Apply

Applicants can apply via given website.

For more information, please visit [National Geographic Society](#).

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# Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus



## Objective

As a consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union, 70 million people along the southern borders of the Russian Confederation, all with different ethnic backgrounds and languages, were catapulted into independence. The funding initiative entitled "Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus" addresses the newly emerged independent states of Central Asia and the Caucasus as well as Afghanistan and some of the immediately neighboring regions of the Russian Federation and China. The overall aim is to work closely with local scholars and scientists to develop relevant research projects and to strengthen intraregional cooperation.

## Scope of Funding

### Thematic Calls

Within the frame of two thematically defined calls for proposals in the areas of environmental and social sciences, the Volkswagen Foundation has been supporting 13 cooperative research projects since 2014 and 2015, respectively. These involve significant participation of scholars and scientists from the target region and are accompanied by training and advancement of young researchers.

Further calls for joint research proposals in these or other thematic areas are not envisaged.

### Structurally-Oriented Measures

In addition to the thematic calls, the Volkswagen Foundation will in future also be offering support for a number of measures. These can be applied for at any time. They include training measures for young researchers from the region, projects on the integration of researchers from Central Asia and the Caucasus who are returning from abroad, targeted aid for the creation and expansion of the academic infrastructure in the region, as well as workshops, symposia and summer schools.

Details of conditions and the application procedure can be found under [Information for Applicants 72 \(pdf\)](#). Applications must be filed electronically via the electronic application system.

### History

The funding initiative "Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus" was started in 2000. In late November 2011 the Foundation decided to modify its offer to include a combination of theme-based calls and projects aimed at structural development.

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# USEFUL INFORMATION

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## Nazarbayev University's New Publications

Google Alerts is one of Google's tools to keep track of trends, interesting topics, or anything really new that appears on the web. We would like to introduce you the recent alerts ( April 20, 2017 – June 20, 2017) on the published papers by our colleagues so you can keep track on NU research successes:

To view the recently published papers, please [click here](#).



## Promoting interdisciplinary research: PURE research management solution

**Nazarbayev University has purchased the Pure research management solution to promote interdisciplinary research, facilitate and ease any research-related procedures: starting from providing information on any research works (articles, books, book chapters, working papers, conference proceedings, etc.) to internal grant and project management.**

To help us ease the research management procedures for you, please fill out all research-related data in your profiles.

The NU faculty and researchers should have received their details to log in to the Pure system from the **"purehosted"**

sender. If you have problems logging in to the system, please email **Aiman Temirova** at [aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz).

Aiman Temirova has already visited all Schools and NLA. If your research unit would like to get a training on how to use Pure, please an email to Aiman Temirova.

The step-by-step guideline on how to enter data and update your profiles can be downloaded by following **this link**.

We appreciate your cooperation!

*Kind Regards,  
Research Services Office*

# Research Performance Evaluation using SciVal

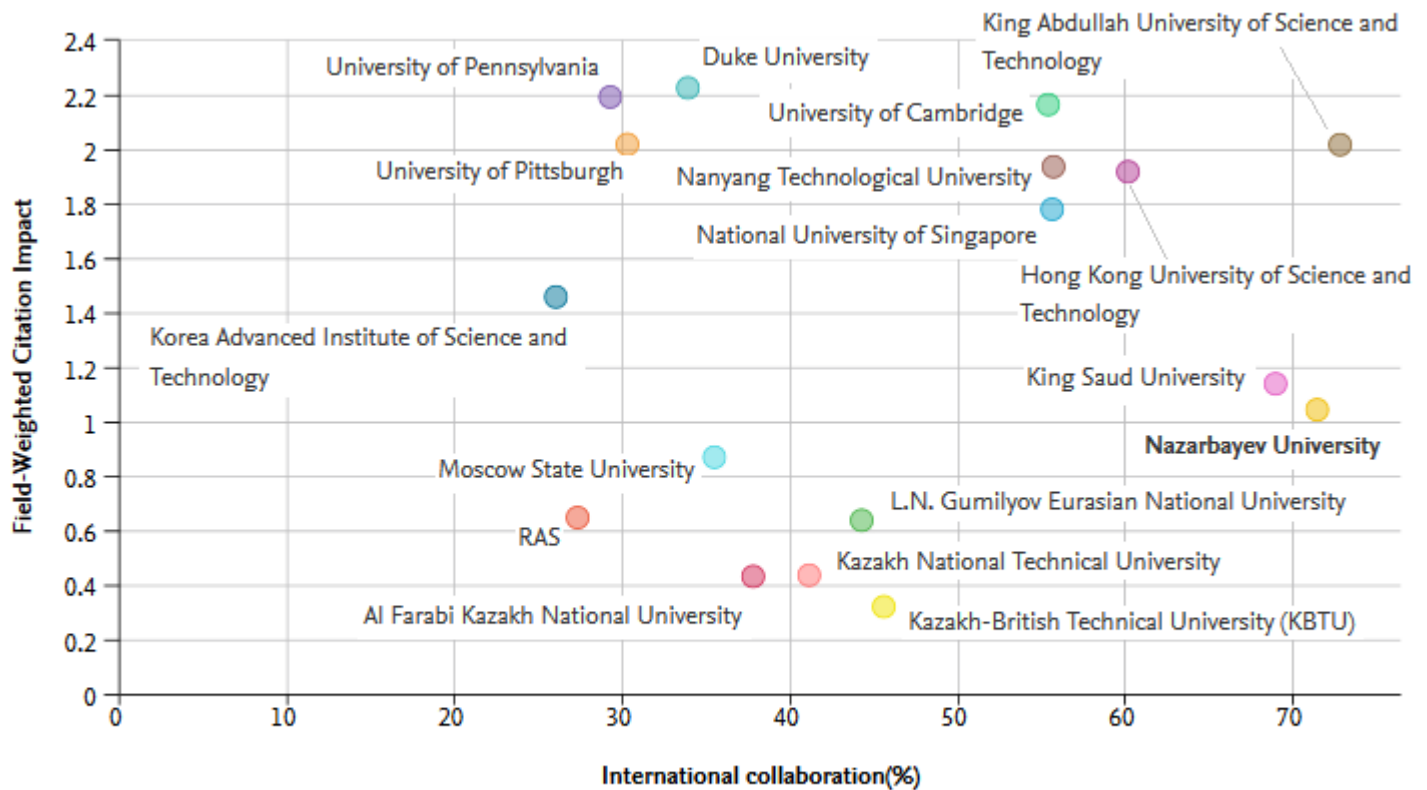
**In this month's issue, we are delighted to share an updated presentation on the research performance of Nazarbayev University using the SciVal research solution.**

Since its inception in 2011, Nazarbayev University faculty and researchers have released **1176** peer-reviewed publications indexed by Scopus, and have been cited **3232** times (source: Scopus, 16 June 2017). The approximate number of citations per the peer-reviewed publication is 2.75.

In order to provide you with more

comprehensive information on the NU's research performance, we prepared a [presentation using SciVal research evaluation](#) platform that is based on Scopus.

If you have any questions regarding the provided information, please contact **Aiman Temirova** (email address: [aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiman.temirova@nu.edu.kz)), Manager for Research Monitoring and Assessment, Research Services Office.



*Benchmarking the research performance of Nazarbayev University, national and international institutions using Field-Weighted Citation Index and International Collaboration share of peer-reviewed publications from 2011 to 16 June 2017.*

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

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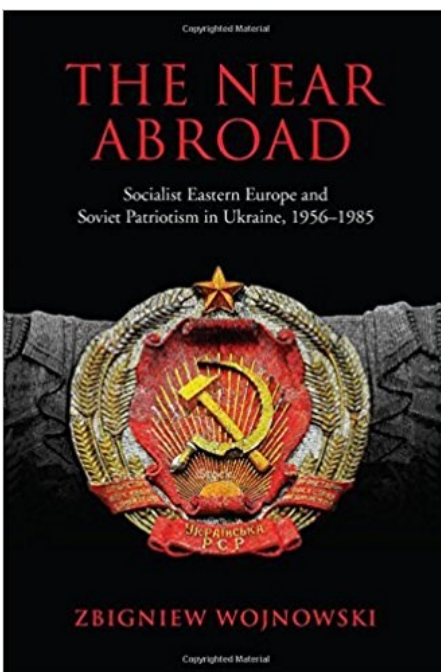
## Congratulations to Dr. Valagiannopoulos and Prof. Kovanis!

We would like to congratulate Dr. Costas Valagiannopoulos, Assistant Professor, School of Science and Technology, and Prof. Vassilios Kovanis, Professor & Chair of the Department of Physics, School of Science and Technology, on publishing their article "**Judicious distribution of laser emitters to shape the desired far-field patterns**" in **Physical Review A**, the flagship journal of the American Physical Society.

The paper has been submitted for publication in May 2017 and in June has already been published.

This academic work was partially supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan via Contract No. 339/76-2015 and Nazarbayev University ORAU grant (No. 20162031) "Structured light for nonlinear and topological photonics". The article can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

## Congratulations to Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski!



Congratulations to Dr. Wojnowski, Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, on publishing a book "The Near Abroad: Socialist Eastern Europe and Soviet Patriotism in Ukraine, 1956-1985." The book was published by the University of Toronto Press in May 2017 and it can be purchased on Amazon or at the University of Toronto Press website.

From the Soviet perspective, Eastern Europe was the near abroad – more accessible than the capitalist West, yet also unambiguously foreign. Observing their western neighbours, citizens of the USSR developed new ideas about the role of states, borders, and national identities in the Soviet empire.

In *The Near Abroad*, Zbigniew Wojnowski traces how Soviet Ukrainian identities developed in dialogue and confrontation with the USSR's neighbours in Eastern Europe. The author challenges the dominant chronologies of late Soviet history by arguing that patriotism framed heated debates about the future of the Soviet state even amongst the rising tide of cynicism and disengagement from public life. Wojnowski's analysis illuminates the mental geographies that continue to shape relations and conflicts between Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe to this very day.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*IET Cyber-Physical Systems:  
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IEEE TETCI Special Issue on **"Large-scale Memristive Systems and Neurochips for Computational Intelligence"** Guest Editors: Alex Pappachen James (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan); Khaled Nabil Salama (King Abdulla University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia); Hai (Helen) Li (Duke University, USA); Dalibor Bielek (University of Defence, Brno, Czech Republic); Giacomo Indiveri (University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Switzerland); Leon Ong Chua (University of California, Berkeley, USA); **Submission Deadline: October 30, 2017.** [**Call for Papers**] [http://cis.ieee.org/images/files/Documents/Transactions/TETCI/SI8\\_CFP\\_LMSN.pdf](http://cis.ieee.org/images/files/Documents/Transactions/TETCI/SI8_CFP_LMSN.pdf)

**IET Cyber-physical systems: SPECIAL ISSUE ON: Smart Vision Circuits and Systems for the Internet-of-Things** [http://digital-library.theiet.org/files/IET\\_CPS\\_CFP\\_SVCSIoT.pdf](http://digital-library.theiet.org/files/IET_CPS_CFP_SVCSIoT.pdf)

# Volume 2, Issue 2: Call for Papers

Learning to research.  
Researching to learn.



*NUGSE Research in Education* is a peer-reviewed journal designed for educational leaders, policymakers, researchers and students interested in empirical research, article/book reviews, and analytical papers on a wide range of topics in education. The primary aim is to share experience and promote understanding of Kazakhstan's unique educational context.

## Vision and Scope

Primarily focused on educational reform in Kazakhstan, this journal presents original, English-language, scholarly work in the form of empirical studies, critical article/book reviews, theoretical analysis papers and evaluative policy analysis papers. Published articles will fall broadly into these categories:

- Internationalization
- Globalization
- International cooperation
- National and transnational policies
- Administration/ Management
- Finance
- Vocational Educational Training Institutes
- Curriculum
- Mobility
- Inclusion
- Minority issues
- Gender issues
- Leadership in education
- Others

## How to become an Author

- Our authors tend to be graduate students or emerging scholars;
- Authors must present original findings and analyses on educational topics important to them;
- Interested authors should register at [nugserie.nu.edu.kz](http://nugserie.nu.edu.kz).

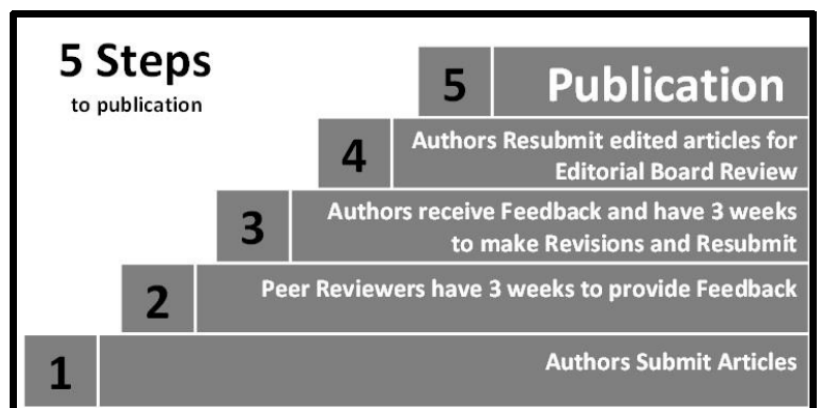
## How to become a Peer Reviewer

- Our peer reviewers include graduate students, alumni and faculty.
- Peer Reviewers must possess current knowledge of professional standards in one or more of the fields listed above;
- Peer Reviewers should complete a one-time workshop with NUGSE student editors and faculty members.
- Interested peer reviewers should register at [nugserie.nu.edu.kz](http://nugserie.nu.edu.kz), being sure to indicate their research interests.

## Submission Guidelines

- Deadline for initial submission: September 15, 2017.
- Original research articles may range from about 2,000-6,000 words in length. Naturally, policy papers and article/book reviews are shorter and empirical studies are longer;
- Papers should meet the journal's aim and scope described above;
- All submissions must include an abstract (75-150 words), keywords and references;
- Manuscripts should be double spaced and follow APA style guidelines for citations, headings and tables.

## Publication Process:



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# Conference on Good Governance and Economic Diversification in Resource Rich Economies



This summer GSPP hosts **Conference on Good Governance and economic diversification in resource rich economies (GSPPCONF2017 on 17-19 August 2017).**

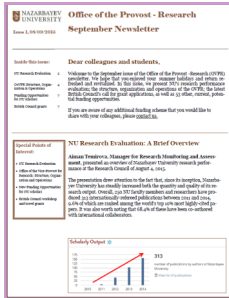
The highlighted topics of GSPPCONF2017 will cover:

Public management  
Economic diversification  
Political economy of natural resources  
Reforms in the post-Soviet states  
Public policy education in Central Asia  
Security in Central Asia  
Civil society and public sphere

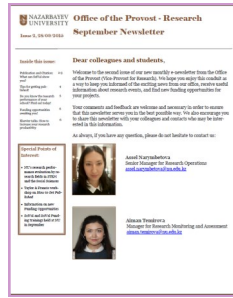
The Conference email: [gsppconf2017@nu.edu.kz](mailto:gsppconf2017@nu.edu.kz) you can also look for certain information at the official website of the Graduate School of Public Policy - <http://gspp.nu.edu.kz>, please feel free to contact us if needed.

Registration for the GSPPCONF2017 is free to all Participants.  
Detailed conference program and schedule will be available later at the GSPP website [www.gspp.nu.edu.kz](http://www.gspp.nu.edu.kz).

# NEWSLETTER'S PREVIOUS ISSUES



**Issue #1**



**Issue #2**



**Issue #3**



**Issue #4**



**Issue #5**



**Issue #6**



**Issue #7**



**Issue #8**



**Issue #9**



**Issue #10**



**Issue #11**



**Issue #12**



**Issue #13**



**Issue #14**



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