

'Социальная жизнь реки:
история окружающей
среды, социальные миры и
разрешение конфликтов по
течению реки Нарын-
Сырдарья''

Айбек Самаков, Университет Тюбингена

Naryn-Syr Darya project



Syr Darya

Map of Projects & People

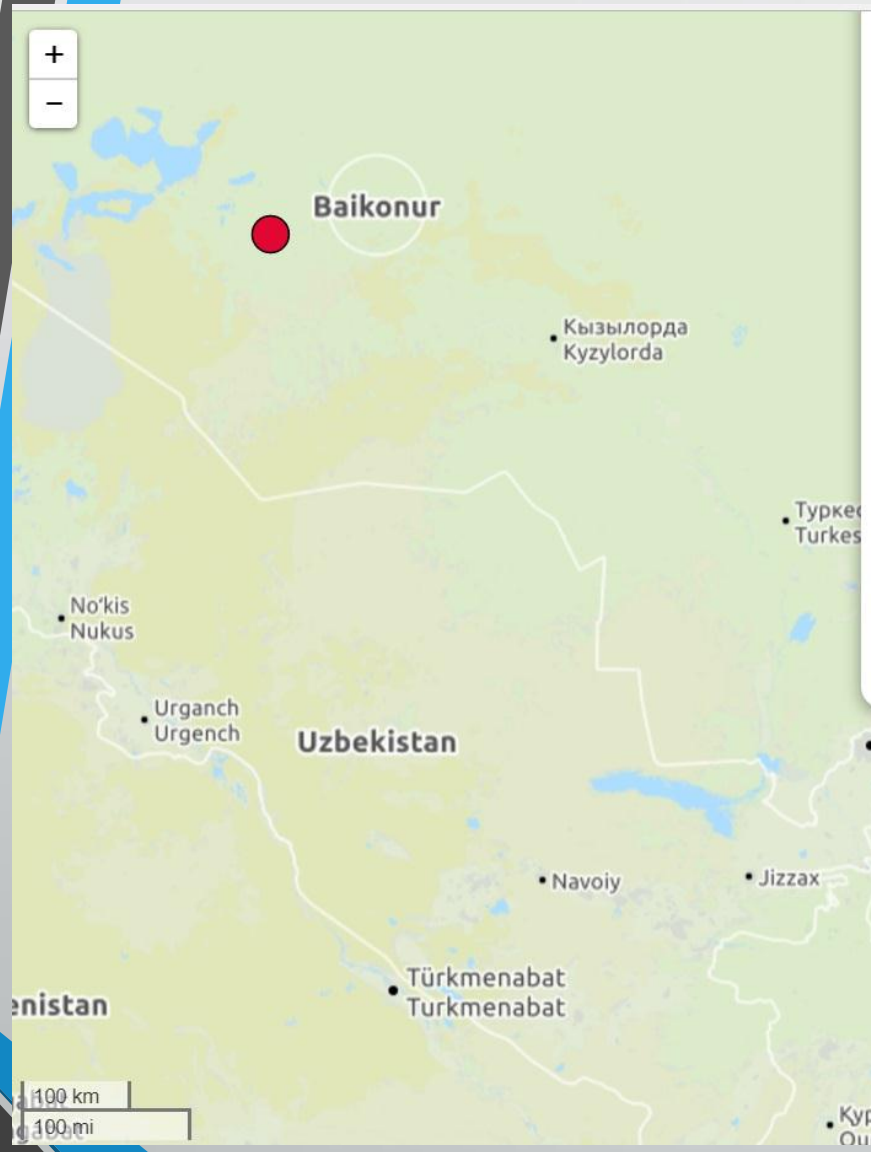
environmental impact of these projects, the study will also source changing expectations and perceptions of hydropower, as well as experiences of loss. This project will benefit from Baialieva's archival and ethnographic work on Soviet hydropower development on the lower Naryn, allowing for inter-project comparisons. Our results can be used to show how water and hydropower technologies can mediate state power. This political river ecology will demonstrate how different ways of valuing, producing and distributing water and energy resources impact social hierarchies - and vice versa.



Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix

Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix is a social anthropologist and coordinates a junior research group on the cultural history of water at the University of Tübingen, Germany. Together with Dr. Mohira Suyarkulova, she manages the Volkswagen Foundation research project on the 'social life' of the Naryn/Syr Darya. After completing her PhD in Social Anthropology at St. Andrews University on the moral geographies of sites in Kyrgyzstan in 2010, she held a number of research fellowships at the Centre of the Modern Orient (Berlin). Her research interests include environmental anthropology, age relations, the politicization of Central Asian migrants in Russia and Turkey, and the effect of energy policies on citizens in Central Asia. Féaux is also an active member of the Central Eurasian Scholars and Media Initiative.

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was taken from the nearest inhabited territory — a town of Uch-Kurgan in Uzbekistan. Like many other strategically substantial Soviet technological objects, this first international project bore a new industrial settlement — Shamaldy-Sai (WindyValley). Since 1950s the “wild” valley between two countries dwelled the construction workers and further established its associated industrial complexes (plants, factories). Needless to say, Shamaldy-Sai received Moscow-style privileges, a complex infrastructure and “modern” conveniences. However, with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1990, the town suffered the collapse of industries and infrastructure. This project will study how the river and harnessed hydropower has affected the area and life in industrial and post-industrial Shamaldy-Sai and its neighboring settlements.



Gulzat Baialieva

Gulzat Baialieva received a graduate Diploma with Honors in 2003 from European Civilizations, Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrgyzstan. She has been teaching in the same university since 2002. Gulzat developed and taught Social Anthropology as a pilot course from 2012. The research interests include the socio-cultural and political changes in the post-Soviet space.

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Syr Darya
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Syr Darya

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Project C: The 'Social Life' of a River: environmental histories, social worlds and conflict resolution along the Naryn/Syr Darya

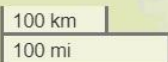
This project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. Her research project investigates how knowledge about the Naryn-Syr Darya is produced by global, regional and national water experts, and how these discourses affect relations with the river in the Tajikistani city of Khojand.

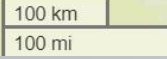


Dr. Mohira Suyarkulova

Dr. Mohira Suyarkulova is a research coordinator at the Central Asian Studies Institute of the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). She is also an Associate Professor at the International and Comparative Politics Department of the AUCA. Her research interests range widely and include international relations, politics of history writing, politics of transboundary rivers and urban politics, gender politics and fashion in Central Asia. She has held a number of research and teaching positions after obtaining a PhD in International Relations (2011) from the University of St Andrews and is currently a postdoctoral fellow and regional coordinator of the project.

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Project D: Intimate water cultures of the Ferghana valley

Based on historical and ethnographic data, this study will examine the evolution of water-related cultural ideas and practices of different populations living along Syr Darya river in the Ferghana valley. The study will on the one hand collect and analyse sources of oral literature and folk art (myths, sayings, oral histories) related to the Syr Darya. On the other hand, the study will relate the ideas expressed in these sources to local water management practices through family networks, neighbourhoods (mahalla) and *mirob* customary law and institutions.



Prof. Adham Ashirov

Adham Ashirov is a Professor of Ethnography, Ethnology and Anthropology and the Head of the Ethnology Department Institute of History, Uzbek Academy of Sciences.

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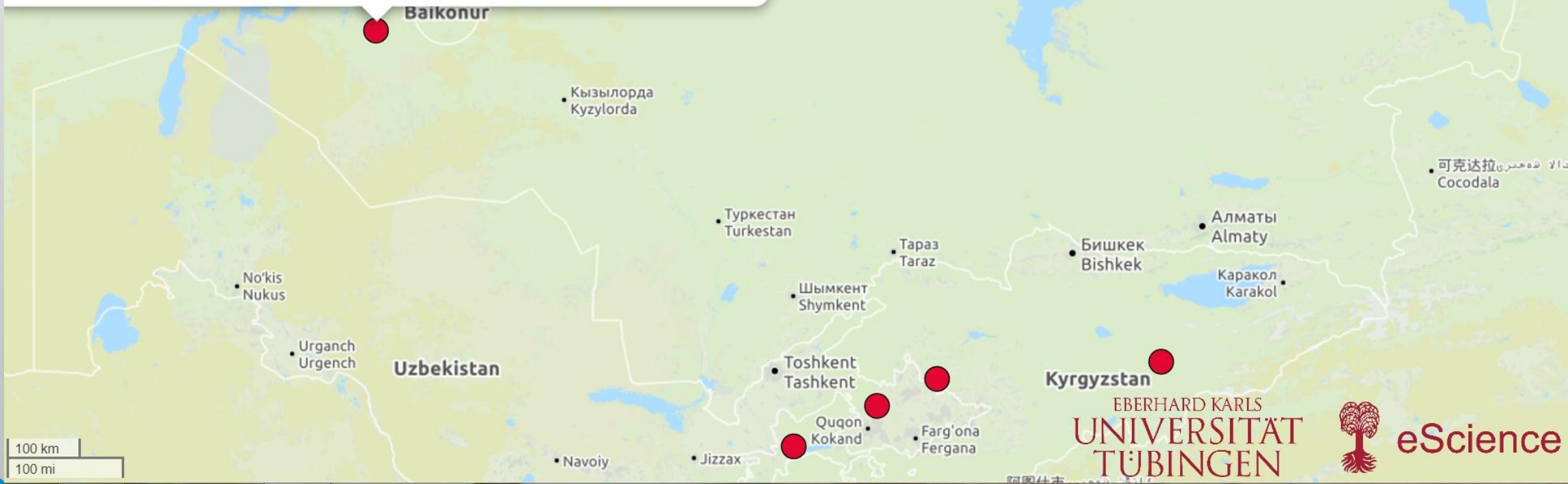
Aibek Samakov

Aibek Samakov is a PhD student at the University of Tübingen. He holds a Master's Degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba (Canada) and Specialist Diploma in International Relations from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. For several years, Aibek has been working for Aigine Cultural Research Center (Bishkek) and has participated in extensive research of sacred sites and traditional knowledge in Kyrgyzstan.

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Syr Darya

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Tasattyq ritual



Time: After Nooruz – beginning of May
Scale: Village or a neighborhood





- Family as a unit for contribution (1,000 – 1,500 tenge on average)
- Self-organization: tasattyq committee, graduates e.g. 71ers, neighborhood leaders

Elements of the ritual:

- Pate of the elders (blessing)
- Blood must flow in the water
- Prayer in the mosque *optional
- Feast
- Pate
- Qatym sagira



- Purpose: asking (Allah) for more water this year praying
- Some implied purpose: appeasing the river, asking the river to take away bad fortune
- Sacrificial animal: cattle or sheep

Рахмат!

