

# Farkhod Aminjonov

Central Asia Institute for Strategic Studies  
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## Education

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- **Ph.D. Global Governance**, Wilfrid Laurier University/ Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada (2015).
  - *Dissertation Title*: “Security of the Central Asian Energy System Through Regional-Level Energy Governance Innovations.”
  - *Committee*: David Welch, Ian Rowlands, Simon Dalby, Edward Schatz and Alexander Cooley.
- **M.A. International Area Studies**, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan (2011).
  - *Thesis Title*: “Re-thinking Energy Security from Export-Oriented Countries' Perspective: Case of Central Asia.”
- **M.A. Political Science**, OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2009).
  - *Thesis Title*: “Comparative Analysis of Russian and Ukrainian Gas Transit Power: Similarities and Differences.”
- **Bachelor of Jurisprudence** (with Honours), University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (2008).

## Research & Teaching Interests

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- Energy/Water Governance and Institutions
- International and Regional Security
- Water and Energy Security
- Eurasian Pipeline Politics
- Central Asian Energy Systems' Security
- Domestic and Foreign Policy Analysis

## Research Experience

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- **Deputy Director and Co-Founder**, Central Asia Institute for Strategic Studies, Almaty, Kazakhstan (June 2016 – present).
- **Senior Research Fellow**, Eurasian Research Institute of Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh–Turkish University, Energy Department, Almaty, Kazakhstan (November 2015–June 2016 and May–December 2014).
- **Doctoral Researcher**, Wilfrid Laurier University/ Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada (2011–2015).
- **Energy Security Expert**, Research Center for Chinese and Central Asian Studies: Sinopsis, Almaty, Kazakhstan (2014–2015).
- **Research Intern**, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Department of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Oslo, Norway (June–August 2009).
- **Research Intern**, Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (2008).
- **Legal Consultant**, Legal Clinic in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Project: Legal Aid and Legal Literacy for Better Access to Justice (2006–2008).

## Key Research Projects

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- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Projects: “Central Asia and Afghanistan: Towards a Better World in 2040”; “Re-thinking Central Asian Energy Security: Pitfalls of Dependency Diversification Strategies”; “Russian ‘Soft Power’ in Kazakhstan (and Central Asia): Taking for Granted?”; “Kazakhstan and Ukraine: Common Shared Future?” Almaty, Kazakhstan (July–November, 2016).
- International Organization for Migration, Project: “Strengthening the Capacity in Migration Management in the Regions with Trans-boundary Water Resources in the Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Kazakhstan.” The project is funded by the International Organization for Migration Development Fund and prepared for

the Committee for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty/Astana, Kazakhstan (February–June, 2016).

- Eurasian Research Institute, “Central Asian Gas Export Dependency Diversification Policies: Swapping Russian Patronage for Chinese?” Almaty, Kazakhstan (October–May, 2016).
- The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Afghanistan (FES), Project: “Central Asian Countries’ Contribution to Improving Energy Security in Afghanistan,” Kabul, Afghanistan (February–April, 2016).
- Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Project: Central Asian Security Initiative on “Security Issues and Responses in Central Asia,” Waterloo, Canada (2015).
- Harvard Book Project: “The New Geopolitics of Gas: The Changing Balance of Power between Russia, Eurasia and the West,” by Dr. Agnia Grigas (2015).
- Caspian Strategy Institute (HASSEN) based in Istanbul, Project: “Caspian Energy Outlook” (2015).
- Open Society Foundation, Project: “Dilemmas of Compatibility and Regional Cooperation: Central Asian Countries’ Energy Policies” (May 2014–May 2015).
- OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Project: “History Writing and Nation-Building in Central Asia” (2014–2015).

## Teaching Experience

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- **Head Teaching Assistant**, Political Science Department, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada (2011–2013, 2015).
- Introduction to Modern Politics: Structures and Processes of Government (PO111), Fall Term 2011.
- Introduction to Modern Politics: The State (PO110A/B), Winter Term 2012.
- Introduction to Modern Politics: The State (PO110), Fall Term 2012.
- Introduction to Modern Politics: Structures and Processes of Government (PO111), Fall Term 2013.
- Politics Within Borders (PO101), Winter Term 2015.
- **Lecturer**, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, International Relations Department, Almaty, Kazakhstan (April 2014).

## Articles and Published Papers (Refereed)

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- “Central Asian Gas Export Dependency Diversification Policies: Swapping Russian Patronage for Chinese?” *Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Journal (RUSI)*, London, UK (submitted).
- “Altering Russian energy interests in Central Asia and Afghanistan,” Columbia University online press, New York, US (August, 2016) (accepted, forthcoming).
- “Tracing Central Asian Countries’ Contribution to Improving Energy Security in Afghanistan,” *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Afghanistan* (August, 2016) (accepted, forthcoming).
- “Limitations of the Central Asian Energy Security Policy: Priorities and Prospects for Improvement,” *CIGI Papers*, No. 103 (May 2016), Waterloo, Canada [https://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/paper\\_no103web.pdf](https://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/paper_no103web.pdf).
- “Security of the Central Asian Energy System: Institutional Versus State Interests,” *Central Asia Security Policy Briefs Series* 32 (February 2016), <http://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Brief32.pdf>.
- “Dilemmas of Compatibility and Energy Security Through Regional Cooperation: Central Asian Countries’ Energy Policies,” *Central Asian Analytical Network/ Soros Kazakhstan* (July 2015), <http://caa-network.org/archives/4351>.
- “Comparative Analysis of Russian and Ukrainian Gas Transit Powers,” *Eurasian Research Institute Working Papers*, no. 2 (December 2014), [http://eurasianri.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ERI\\_WP-002.pdf](http://eurasianri.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ERI_WP-002.pdf).
- “Customs Union and Kazakhstan’s Policy in Energy Sector,” *International Science Economic Journal* 62, no. 2 (2014): 38–45 (in Russian).

- “Challenges Along the Way Towards a Maximally Secure Central Asian Gas System,” in *Export Pipelines from the CIS Region: Geopolitics, Securitization, and Political Decision-Making*, eds. Andreas Heinrich and Heiko Pleines (Stuttgart: Ibidem, 2014), pp. 131–149.
- “Central Asia’s Natural Gas: the Pitfalls of Energy Export Diversification,” *Central Asia Security Policy Briefs Series 13* (August 2014), [http://osce-academy.net/upload/Policy\\_briefs/Policy\\_Brief\\_13.pdf](http://osce-academy.net/upload/Policy_briefs/Policy_Brief_13.pdf).

### **Non-Refereed Publications**

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- “Энергетическая безопасность Афганистана: центрально-азиатское электричество или возобновляемые источники энергии?” *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Kazakhstan* (August, 2016) (accepted, forthcoming).
- “Независимость во взаимозависимом регионе: гидроэнергетические проекты и позиция Узбекистана,” *CABAR/ Central Asian Bureau for Analytical Reporting*, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, April 25, 2016 <http://cabar.asia/ru/farhod-aminzhonov-nezavisimost-vo-vzaimozavisimom-regione-gidroenergeticheskie-proekty-i-pozitsiya-uzbekistana/>.
- “Uzbekistan: Migrants Affected,” in *The Russian Crisis and Its Fallout: The Impact on the Eastern Partnership States and Central Asia*, eds. Katharina Gröne and Felix Hett (Berlin: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2015), pp. 26–27, <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id-moe/11330-20150427.pdf>.
- “Lack of System-Level Energy Policies Threatens Energy Security in Central Asia,” *Vlast.kz*, December 25, 2014 (in Russian), [http://vlast.kz/article/bessistemnaja\\_jenergopolitika\\_stran\\_centralnoj\\_azii\\_usugubljaet\\_jenergeticheskuju\\_bezopasnost\\_regiona-8950.html](http://vlast.kz/article/bessistemnaja_jenergopolitika_stran_centralnoj_azii_usugubljaet_jenergeticheskuju_bezopasnost_regiona-8950.html).
- “The Common Energy Market of the EEU: When to Be Integrated?” *The OSCE Academy Newsletter*, December 2014, [http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d759b1f92545013e342d54a20&id=72b221ff74&e=\[UNIQID\]](http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d759b1f92545013e342d54a20&id=72b221ff74&e=[UNIQID]).
- “India’s Energy Interests in Central Asia: Challenges Ahead,” in *Think South Asia 14: A New Modus Operandi under Modi?* ed. Djan Sauerborn (Brussels: South Asia Democratic Forum, July 18, 2014), pp. 19–23, <http://sadf.eu/home/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/thinksouthasia14.pdf>.
- “Kazakhstan’s Energy Policy and the Customs Union,” *Polit-azia.kz*, February 10, 2014 (in Russian), <http://polit-azia.kz/9-last-24h-news/148-energeticheskaya-politika-kazahstana-i-tamozhennyj-soyuz>.

### **Eurasian Research Institute (Bulletin and Comments)**

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- “Alternative Energy Sources of Uzbekistan,” *Eurasian Research Institute*, June 30, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en>.
- “Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure in Central Asia,” *Eurasian Research Institute*, May 21, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en>.
- “Oil Sector Development of Uzbekistan: from Net Exporter to net Importer,” *Eurasian Research Institute*, May 6, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en>.
- “Competing Interests of Iran and Kazakhstan in the Oil Market?” *Eurasian Research Institute*, May 6, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en>.
- “Kazakhstan’s Countrywide Gasification Initiatives are under Threat” *Eurasian Research Institute*, April 1, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en/research/publication/comments/kazakhstan%E2%80%99s-countrywide-gasification-initiatives-are-under-threat>.
- “Central Asian Countries’ Power Systems Are Now Isolated, But Not Everyone Is Happy!” *Eurasian Research Institute*, March 14, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en/research/comments/energy/central-asian-countries%E2%80%99-power-systems-are-now-isolated-not-everyone-happy>.
- “Overview of Prospects for the Central Asia–Afghanistan Energy Cooperation,” *Eurasian Research Institute*, February 23, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en/research/comments/energy/overview-prospects-central-asia%E2%80%99afghanistan-energy-cooperation>.

- “The Central Asian Countries' Electric Power Sector and the Problem of Energy Inefficiency,” *E-Bulletin, Eurasian Research Institute*, February 17, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en/research/comments/energy/iran%E2%80%93turkmenistan-gas-trade-coming-end>.
- “Is the Iran–Turkmenistan Gas Trade Coming to the End?” *Eurasian Research Institute*, January 6, 2016, <http://eurasian-research.org/en/research/comments/energy/iran%E2%80%93turkmenistan-gas-trade-coming-end>.
- “Gas Sector Development Policy Priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan,” *E-Bulletin, Eurasian Research Institute*, November 24, 2015, <http://eurasian-research.org/?q=en/research/publication/e-bulletin/gas-sector-development-policy-priorities-republic-uzbekistan>.
- “The New Program on Hydro-power Development to Improve Sustainability of Uzbekistan’s Energy Sector,” *Eurasian Research Institute*, November 24, 2015, <http://eurasian-research.org/?q=en/research/comments/energy/new-program-hydro-power-development-improve-sustainability-uzbekistan%E2%80%93>

### Outreach (Podcasts, Written Commentary)

- “Changing Global and Regional Energy Trading Dynamics and Central Asia” public lecture at the Central Asian Studies Center, KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, YouTube video, March 18, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iphGgMLjwXw>.
- “Unrequited love between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan” interview with Farkhod Aminjonov prepared by chief editor Zarina Akhmatova March 23, 2016, <https://vlast.kz/politika/16512-farhod-aminzonov-issledovatel-u-afganistana-s-kazahstanom-bezotvetnaa-lubov.html>.
- “Energy and Water Issues in Central Asia Are Highly Politicized,” *Radiotochka*, podcast audio, April 24, 2014, <http://radiotochka.kz/2112-.html>.
- “Is China a Threat and How Can We Benefit from Our Neighbour?” expert talk show with Rasul Jumaly and Olzhas Khudaybergenov, *Radiobasta*, podcast audio, November 25, 2013, <http://radiotochka.kz/1217-.html>.
- “The Cost of the North–South Highway Has to Be Covered by Tolls,” *Tazabek*, June 12, 2014, <http://www.tazabek.kg/news:374053/>.

### Scholarships, Grants & Fellowships

- **Research Grant, Regional Expert Exposure Visit**, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan (2016).
- **Public Policy Initiative Fellowship**, Open Society Foundation, Almaty, Kazakhstan (2014–2015).
- **Research Grant**, OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, “History Writing and Nation-Building in Central Asia” (2014–2015).
- **Ontario Trillium Scholarship** for International Students, Wilfrid Laurier University/ Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada (2011–2015).
- **Balsillie Fellowship**, Wilfrid Laurier University/ Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada (2011–2015).
- **Japanese Government Scholarship** for M.A. Studies, Special Program for Central Asian Countries, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan (2009–2011).
- **Research Fellowship**, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Russian and Eurasian Studies Department, Oslo, Norway (May–July 2009).
- **OSCE Academy Scholarship** for M.A. Studies, OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (2008–2009).

### Selected Conferences, Papers, Seminars

- “Altering Russian energy interests in Central Asia and Afghanistan,” presented at the international conference on “The Great Powers and Central Asia after Western Withdrawal from Afghanistan” organized by The Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, June 6-7, 2016, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- “Central Asia in the Global Energy Market and the Renewable Energy Sources,” presented at the conference organized by the Eurasian Institute of Standardization based in Istanbul on “The Renewable Energy Sources and ISO 50001,” Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, June 1–3, 2016.

- “Trade-offs between three levels of Energy Cooperation in Central Asia,” presentation at the Eurasian Research Institute round-table on “Energy Security Paradox in Central Asia: Independence in an Interdependent Region,” April 8, 2016, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Training on “International Organization for Migration’s *Migration Crisis Operation Framework*” By Farkhod Aminjonov and Ginette Kid (IOM Geneva), organized by the International Organization for Migration in cooperation the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Kazakhstan, April 5–7, 2016, Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Workshop on “Climate Change Adaptation and Emergency Response Capacity,” presented the analysis on four regions of Kazakhstan (East Kazakhstan, South Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda and Mangystau), organized by the International Organization for Migration in cooperation the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Kazakhstan, March 15, 2016, Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan.
- Workshop on “Energy Politics in Central Asia and Afghanistan” by Farkhod Aminjonov, *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Afghanistan*, Kabul, Afghanistan, February 26, 2016.
- Workshop on “Security Issues and Responses in Central Asia,” organized by the Centre for International Governance Innovations and Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan–The Leader of the Nation in Astana, Kazakhstan, December 8-9, 2015 (invited speaker).
- “*Governance Innovations to Improve Security of the Central Asian Energy System?*” Best paper award at the Fourth Alumni Conference on “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development,” the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 3–4, 2015.
- “*Nation Building in Contemporary Uzbekistan*,” paper presented at the Association for the Study of Nationalities Twentieth Annual World Convention, Columbia University, New York, United States, April 23–25, 2015.
- History Writing and Nation-Building in Central Asia Workshop, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, New York, United States, April 22, 2015 (participant).
- “*What is Wrong with Central Asian Regional Energy Governance Mechanisms?*” paper presented at the Third Eurasian Forum on Social Sciences on “Quest for Integration Unions in the Eurasian Region,” Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 15–16, 2014.
- “*Comparative Analysis of Russian and Ukrainian Gas Transit Powers*,” paper presented to the Second International Congress on Energy Security in Southeast Europe, Izmir, Turkey, November 6–8, 2014.
- “*Security of the Central Asian Energy systems*,” paper presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Central Eurasian Studies Society Joint Regional Conference, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan, May 24, 2014.
- “*Emerging Patterns of Regional Energy Trade and Role of Multilateral Institutions*” and “*Domestic Reforms of Institutions for Regional Trade in Energy*,” speaker in two panels at the South Asian Dialogue on Transboundary Cooperation in Energy Trade, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, May 22, 2014.
- “*Along the Way Towards Maximally Secure Central Asian Energy System: Opportunities and Challenges*,” paper presented at the Eighth Changing Europe Summer School on “Export Pipelines from the CIS Region. National Debates, Political Decision-Making and Geopolitics” organized by the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen, Almaty, Kazakhstan, August 11–18, 2013.
- “*Re-defining ‘Energy Security’ in the Context of Central Asian Energy Export–Import Relations*,” paper presented at the Second Alumni Conference on “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development,” the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 5–6, 2012. Winner of the “Best Paper Award.”

## Language skills

Uzbek–native; Russian–fluent; English–fluent; Tajik–advanced; French and Kazakh–elementary