

## VIKTORIA AKCHURINA

Date of birth: August 3, 1986  
Place of birth: Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan  
Email: [vik.akchurina@gmail.com](mailto:vik.akchurina@gmail.com)



### EDUCATION

- 11/2010 – 01/2016 **PhD in International Studies, University of Trento, Italy**  
PhD dissertation: "The State as Social Practice: Sources, Resources, and Forces in Central Asia"  
Supervisor: Prof. Vincent Della Sala
- 08/2007 – 08/2009 **Jacobs University Bremen/University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany**  
**Master of Arts** in International Relations: Global Governance and Social Theory
- 09/2005 – 01/2006 **Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden**  
**Exchange student** (financed by SIDA)  
Major: Comparative Politics
- 09/2002 – 06/2007 **Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
**Master of Arts** in International Relations and Diplomacy (with distinction)

### VISITING POSITIONS:

- 07/2013 – 12/2013 **Centre for OSCE Research, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, Germany**  
Visiting Researcher
- 09/2012 – 11/2012 **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Moscow, Russia**  
Visiting Researcher
- 03/2012 – 09/2012 **American University Central Asia (AUCA), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
Visiting Researcher

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 02/2018 – present **University of Paris-13, GlobalContest Project/CERAL (ANR)**  
**Postdoctoral Researcher**
- Conducting research on "weak" states and global governance with focus on the Eurasian region
- 10/2016 – 05/2017 **EXOP-group, Security Risk Management**  
**Constance, Germany**  
**Asia-Pacific Analyst**
- Monitoring, researching and analyzing security risks in the Asia-Pacific Region
  - Maintaining the database of security risks in the region and crafting weekly reports
  - Preparing and conducting training modules on inter-cultural intelligence for military personnel and international businesses involved in the region
- 01/2016 – 12/2016 **Jean-Monnet Centre, "Beyond Vilnius" Project**  
**University of Trento, Italy**  
**Researcher**
- Assisted in organizing the conference "Beyond Vilnius: the European Union and the Emerging Eurasian Space", held at the University of Trento on 29-30 January 2016
  - Co-Editing a Special Issue (with Vincent Della Sala) on "Power and Competing Regionalism in a Wider Europe: Shared Neighbourhood, Battleground or Transit on the New Silk Road"
  - Conducting research on narratives of power in Russia and Eurasia

- 03/2014 – 11/2014                    **Defense Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
**Independent Consultant on Religious Reform**
- Analyzed data from various state institutions on religious radicalization in Central Asia
  - Drafted a new conceptual framework for the reform
  - Contributed to the State Strategy on radical social movements
  - Controlled for the compatibility of the new legal norms with international law
- 07/2012 – 09/2012                    **OSCE Office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan**  
**Political Military Department Research**  
**Traineeship**
- Conducted an in-depth review of the statistical data of the OSCE on radicalization
  - Drafted internal reports, suggesting alternative research approaches and methodologies
  - Organized and conducted research trips to a number of provinces in Tajikistan in the framework of Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism (VERLT) Project
- 12/2009 – 03/2010                    **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Department of**  
**Security and International Organizations, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
**Diplomatic Traineeship**
- Drafted weekly analytical reports for the Minister of Foreign Affairs on various political issues
  - Drafted diplomatic correspondence in Russian, English and German
  - Assisted in organizing high-level negotiations and diplomatic receptions
- 03/2009 – 05/2009                    **International Women's Media Foundation, Washington DC**  
**Researcher for Germany** in the global study on the Status of Women  
in News Media
- Identified and established contacts with the key media companies in Germany
  - Collected data on the status of women in medium and large news media companies in Germany through face-to-face interviews with gender officers of the media companies
- 08/2008 – 12/2008                    **Centre for European Law and Politics, Bremen, Germany**  
**Research Assistant**
- Assisted in data collection and data analysis of the “EuroEthos” project (funded by the EU)
  - Prepared PowerPoint presentations, handouts and various study materials
  - Edited English-language publications and reports of the “EuroEthos”
- 09/2006 – 12/2006                    **UNDP Gender Program, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
**Volunteer**
- Carried out simultaneous interpretation at internal and external meetings of the agency
  - Arranged logistics for related seminars and international conferences held in Bishkek
  - Edited materials for publishing on gender equality in Central Asia

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- 08/2017 – 01/2018    **American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
**General Education Department**  
Courses taught: 1. Philosophy and Literature (First Year Seminar)  
2. Ethics and Global Issues (Second Year Seminar)
- 29/06/2016                    **Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain**  
Guest lecture: Counter-terrorism Policies in Central Asia
- 18/06/2014                    **OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
Guest seminar: Research Strategy and Qualitative Methods of Data Collection  
In Conflict-prone Regions

## FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- 02/2014 – 11/2014 Data collection and data triangulation on Islamic radicalization in Kyrgyzstan
- 09/2012 – 11/2012 Archival work on national-territorial delimitation, border disputes and religious issues in Central Asia (1919 – 2012), Russian State Archive, Moscow, Russia
- 03/2012 – 09/2012 Conducting semi-standardized interviews, focus groups, participant observations on Islamic movements in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
- 03/2009 – 05/2009 Semi-standardized face-to-face interviews with senior representatives of medium and large German Media Companies, Germany
- 09/2006 – 12/2006 Assisting in data collection for the UNDP project “Women’s stories” about domestic violence against women in Kyrgyzstan

## EDITORIAL WORK:

- 2018 Special Issue of the *Journal of Europe-Asia Studies* on “Power and Competing Regionalism in a Wider Europe: Shared Neighbourhood, Battleground or Transit on the New Silk Road”, co-editing with Vincent Della Sala

## PUBLICATIONS:

- 2015 “Islamist Movements in the Fergana Valley: a New Threat Assessment Approach.” In: Helena Carrapico, Daniela Irrera, and Bill Tupman (Eds.). *Criminals and Terrorists in Partnership: An Unholy Alliance*. Routledge. Co-authored with Anita Lavorgna
- 2014 Islamism Movements in the Fergana Valley: a New Threat Assessment Approach. *Global Crime. Special Issue: Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism: Different Peas, Same Pod? DOI: 10.1080/17440572.2014.924406*. Co-authored with Anita Lavorgna
- 2014 Germany: Parity Numbers-wise, but Women Face a Glass Ceiling. In Carolyn M. Byerly (Ed.). *Palgrave International Handbook on Women and Journalism*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan

## Forthcoming:

- 2018 “Borders and Waters: Compartmentalized Security in the Eurasian Heartland” In: Piotr Dutkiewicz and Richard Sakwa (Eds.). *Eurasia on the Edge: Managing Complexity*. Lexington Books.
- 2018 “Incomplete State: Re-conceptualizing State and Society Relations in Central Asia.” In: Rico Isaacs and Alessandro Frigerio (Eds.). *Theorizing Central Asian Politics: The State, Ideology and Power*. Palgrave Macmillan
- 2018 “Kyrgyzstan and Intermingling Elites: From the State of Enlightenment to the Shadow State.” In: Francesc Serra and Ferran Izquierdo (Eds.). *Political Regimes in Central Asia: Sociology of Power in Today’s Central Asia*. Routledge.
- 2018 “Russia, Europe and the Ontological Security Dilemma: Narrating the Emerging Eurasia Space,” In Special Issue of the *Journal of Europe-Asia Studies* on “Power and Competing Regionalism in a Wider Europe: Shared Neighbourhood, Battleground or Transit on the New Silk Road”, co-authored with Vincent Della Sala

## LANGUAGES:

**Russian** (native); **English** (proficient); **German** (advanced); **Italian** (upper intermediate)  
**French, Ukrainian, Kyrgyz, Uzbek** (good reading comprehension skills)

## **COMPUTER SKILLS:**

MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point)  
SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences)  
HLM (Hierarchical Linear Models)

## **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:**

2010 – 2014 PhD scholarship, University of Trento, Italy  
2007 – 2009 MA studies scholarship/full tuition waiver, Jacobs University Bremen, Germany  
2007 – 2009 Presidential Scholarship “Cadres of the 21 century,” Kyrgyzstan  
2005 – 2006 Linneaus-Palme program scholarship awarded by SIDA, Sweden  
1998 – 2000 Presidential Stipend “Young talents”, Classical Piano, Kyrgyzstan

## **OTHER INTERESTS:**

Classical piano; poetic composition and poetic translation; tango argentino; swimming

## **REFERENCES:**

Prof. Vincent Della Sala, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy  
Email: [vincenzo.dellasala@unitn.it](mailto:vincenzo.dellasala@unitn.it)

Prof. Piotr Dutkiewicz, Director, Centre for Governance and Public Management, Carleton University,  
Ottawa, Canada; Email: [piotr\\_dutkiewicz@carleton.ca](mailto:piotr_dutkiewicz@carleton.ca)

*Other references are available upon request*

**20.02.2018**

***Viktoria Akhulina***