

# Aijan Sharshenova, PhD

## Contact

Kyrgyz Republic   
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## Education

### PhD in Politics

University of Leeds, UK, 2016

### MA in the EU & Central Asian Studies

Institute for European Politics, Germany,  
2012

### MA in International Studies

University of Leeds, UK, 2009

### BA International Relations

Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, 2008

## Key Skills

Stakeholders management  
Strategic communications  
Partnerships coordination  
Knowledge management  
Research and analysis  
Project management  
Policy guidance  
Teaching

## Languages

English – Fluent  
Russian – Native  
Kyrgyz – Native  
German – Beginner

## Digital Skills

Microsoft Word and PowerPoint  
Content Management Systems  
Social Media Management

## Profile

A strong political analyst and a development professional with international experience and regional expertise in Russia, Central Asia and Middle East.

## Academic Experience

### Associate Research Fellow • OSCE Academy • Kyrgyzstan

*May 2020 to May 2023*

- Won a VW Foundation research grant to implement a research project 'Russia's Soft Power in Kyrgyzstan: A Study of Russian Influence in Central Asia' funded by Volkswagen Foundation, in collaboration with Bielefeld University, OSCE Academy and Dr. Chiara Pierobon

### Academic Tutor • PhD Tutors • UK

*Jul 2015 to Jan 2017*

- Academic support and mentorship for postgraduate international students
- Personal coaching

### Graduate Teaching Assistant • University of Leeds • UK

*Sep 2012 to Jan 2015*

- Teaching an undergraduate core module (60-90 students each academic year)
- Academic support and mentorship

### Research Fellow • University of Bielefeld, Technical University Dortmund, Justus-Liebig University Giessen • Germany

*Oct 2012 to Oct 2015*

- Participation in the multinational and multi-disciplinary research project funded by Volkswagen Foundation and implemented by three German universities
- Two personal research projects and contributions to two publications of the consortium

### Research Fellow • American University of Central Asia • Kyrgyzstan

*Sep 2010 to Mar 2011*

- Research project on non-state security providers in Kyrgyzstan (voluntary community patrols)
- Publication of a working paper
- Policy impact: Participation in a parliamentary steering committee to develop the bill on voluntary community patrolling

## International Development Experience

### **Coordination and Research Analyst • UN Resident Coordinator's Office • Bahrain**

*Jan 2019 to May 2020*

- Coordination of over 15 UN agencies' work in Bahrain
- Multi-level stakeholder mapping and management; advocacy and communications for sustainable development and local implementation of the UN's global campaigns

### **Communications Officer • UNDP Sustainable Energy Unit • Bahrain**

*Feb 2018 to Nov 2018*

- Development and implementation of integrated communications programs
- Business and creative content production, event support and digital marketing

### **Policy Analyst • International Peace Institute MENA • Bahrain**

*Feb 2017 to Apr 2017*

- Stakeholder management, strategic partnerships building and public outreach
- Project management and management of the internship program

### **Translator • USAID/DFID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program**

*Oct 2011 to Jun 2015*

- USAID/DFID project implemented by DAI, Inc. to support the newly elected Kyrgyz Parliament
- English to Russian translation of the official Parliamentary Brief issued by the Press Service of the Kyrgyz Parliament twice a week

### **Outreach and Events Coordinator • USAID/DFID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program**

*Mar 2011 to Oct 2011*

- USAID/DFID project implemented by DAI, Inc. to support the newly elected Kyrgyz Parliament
- All-rounder communications and events support of the Program's activities

### **Translator • USAID/MCC Kyrgyzstan Judicial Reform Assistance Project**

*Nov 2009 to Jun 2010*

- USAID/MCC Project provided technical support to the Kyrgyz judiciary
- English-Russian verbal and written translation and proof-reading

## Other Professional Experience

### **Community Liaison Officer • British Embassy in Bahrain**

*Jul 2017 to Feb 2019*

- Data collection, information and knowledge management
- Provision of all-rounder support for diplomatic families at post

### **Trade and Investment Assistant • Department for International Trade • British Embassy in Bahrain**

*Oct 2017 to Dec 2017*

- Data management, events support, digital marketing and sectoral support

### **Translator • GMC Translation Service • Kyrgyzstan**

*Jul 2007 to Mar 2011*

- English-Russian translation
- Italian-Russian translation with the notary right to verify translation

## Selected Publications

**Book:** 'The European Union's Democracy Promotion in Central Asia', Columbia University Press 2018

**Journal article:** 'Undermining Western democracy promotion in Central Asia: China's countervailing influences, powers and impact', Central Asian Survey, Vol.36(4) 2017

**Book chapter:** 'The European Union's Assistance to Kyrgyzstan: Good Intentions, Mixed Results' in Axyonova, V. (ed.) European Engagement under Review: Promoting Values and Standards in the Post-Soviet Space, Columbia University Press 2016

**Book chapter:** 'International vs. Regional Socialisation in Central Asia' in Jonboboiev, S, Rakhimov, M & Seidelmann, R (eds.) Central Asia: Issues, Problems, and Perspectives, Cuvillier Verlag Publishing House 2015

**Book chapter:** 'Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia' in Jonboboiev, S, Rakhimov, M & Seidelmann, R (eds.) Central Asia Today: Countries, Neighbours, and the Region, Cuvillier Verlag Publishing House 2014

## References

Professional and academic references are available upon request