

# AZAMAT K. JUNISBAI, PHD

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – Associate Professor of Sociology, Pitzer College  
2015 – 2016 Associate Professor of Sociology, Nazarbayev University  
2009 – 2015 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Pitzer College

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Indiana University, Sociology, 2009  
M.A. Indiana University, Sociology, 1999  
B.A. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Sociology, 1997

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Social Stratification and Inequality                      Political Sociology  
Post-Soviet Transitions                                      Survey Research

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Junisbai, Barbara, Azamat Junisbai, and Christopher Whitsel. October 2017. "What Makes 'Ardent Democrats' in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan?" PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 489. Available at: <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/memo/what-makes-ardent-democrats-kazakhstan-and-kyrgyzstan>.
- Junisbai, Barbara, Azamat Junisbai, and Baurzhan Zhussupov. 2017. "Two Countries, Five Years: Islam in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through the Lens of Public Opinion Surveys" *Central Asian Affairs* vol. 4, no. 1: 1-25. 2017. [REPRINTED in *Being Muslim in Central Asia: Practices, Politics and Identities*, edited by Marlene Laurelle, Brill, 2018].
- Junisbai, Barbara, Azamat Junisbai, and Nicola Ying Fry. 2015. "Mass Media Consumption in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: The View from Below," *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*, 23(3): 233-256.
- Azamat Junisbai. 2014. "Determinants of Economic System Legitimacy in Kazakhstan." *Europe-Asia Studies* 66(8): 1234-1252.
- Azamat Junisbai. 2010. "Understanding Economic Justice Attitudes in Two (formerly similar) Countries: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." *Social Forces* 88(4): 1677-1702.
- Alderson, Arthur S., Isaac Heacock, and Azamat Junisbai. 2010. "Social Stratification and Musical Consumption: Highbrow / Middlebrow in the United States." In Chan, Tak Wing (ed.). *Social Status and Cultural Consumption*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Alderson, Arthur S., Azamat Junisbai and Isaac Heacock. 2007. "Social Stratification and Cultural Consumption in the United States." *Poetics* 35:191-212.

Barbara Junisbai and Azamat Junisbai. 2005. "The Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan: A Case Study in Economic Liberalization, Intra-Elite Cleavage and Political Opposition." *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*, 13: 373-392.

Michael Wallace and Azamat Junisbai. 2004. "Finding Class Consciousness in the New Economy." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 20: 385-421.

### **BOOK REVIEWS AND OTHER SHORT PIECES**

Junisbai, Azamat. 2015. Review of *Young Men, Time, and Boredom in the Republic of Georgia*, by Martin Demant Frederiksen in *Contemporary Sociology*, 44: 512-513.

Brian Starks and Azamat Junisbai. 2006. "False Consciousness." Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, edited by George Ritzer. Malden, MA.: Blackwell.

### **WORK IN PROGRESS / UNDER REVIEW**

Impact of Divergent Trajectories: Institutional Trust In Kyrgyzstan vs Kazakhstan (with Barbara Junisbai)

Are the Youth Different? Nazarbaev Generation and Public Opinion in Kazakhstan (with Barbara Junisbai and Baurzhan Zhussupov), chapter accepted for inclusion in a peer-reviewed edited volume to be published in French by Laval University Press (Quebec, Canada).

"Ardent Democrats" in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: A Comparison of Political Contexts and Support for Democracy (with Barbara Junisbai and Christopher Whitsel)

Impact of Divergent Trajectories: Economic System Legitimacy In Kyrgyzstan vs Kazakhstan (with Barbara Junisbai)

Secular people in a formerly "godless" society: case of Kazakhstan (with Phil Zuckerman and Barbara Junisbai)

### **HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS**

2018-19 Core Fulbright Scholar Program Award. Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

2012-14 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to organize and oversee nationally representative public opinion surveys about social and economic inequality and the proper role of government in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. \$100,000.

2012-14 National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER) grant to analyze data from the nationally representative public opinion surveys about social and economic inequality and the proper role of government in Central Asia. This program supports policy relevant field research in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia and is funded by the U.S. Department of State (Title VIII). \$40,000.

- 2012-13 International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) Research Fellowship for the project "Norms of Social Justice and Welfare State Attitudes in Post-Soviet Central Asia." This program is funded by the U.S. Department of State (Title VIII). \$16,000. Declined.
- 2011 International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) Short-Term Travel Grant fellowship for research in Central Asia. The fellowship, funded by the US Department of State Title VIII Program, includes airfare, visas, medical evacuation insurance and a monthly stipend to cover housing and living expenses. Amount: \$7,500
- 2010 Grant to participate in the 2010 Policy Symposium on Regional Security in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, funded by the US Department of State Title VIII Program and implemented by IREX and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Kennan Institute. Amount: \$1,975
- 2008-09 J. Stewart and Dagmar K. Riley Graduate Fellowship, full-year dissertation-writing fellowship awarded by the Indiana University. Amount: \$15,000
- 2007-08 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Write-up Fellowship. Amount: \$22,000
- 2007-08 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant. Amount: \$7,500
- 2006-07 U.S. Department of State Title VIII Research Scholar Program, administered by American Councils (ACTR/ACCELS). Amount: \$21,375
- 2006-07 U.S. Department of State Title VIII Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program, administered by IREX (declined).
- 2005 Ph.D. Qualifying Examination with Honors

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

- 2017 "Are the Youth Different? Nazarbayev Generation and Public Opinion in Kazakhstan." Presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, October.
- 2017 "Impact of Divergent Trajectories: Institutional Trust In Kyrgyzstan vs Kazakhstan." Presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, October.
- 2016 "Two Countries, Five Years: Islam In Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan Through The Lens Of Public Opinion Surveys" Presented at Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, January
- 2014 "Democracy, Anyone? Support For Democratic Governance In Post-Soviet Central Asia." Presented at the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July.
- 2014 "Using and Trusting Media In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, April. (with Barbara Junisbai)

- 2014 "Are the Young Truly Different? Youth Opinion about Selected Social and Political Issues in Kazakhstan." Presented at Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, April.
- 2013 "Democracy, Anyone? Support for Democratic Governance in Newly Unequal Societies: Evidence from Post Soviet Market Economies," Invited talk at the International Relations Colloquium at Pomona College.
- 2012 "Finding Religion in Post-Communist Central Asia: Determinants of Support for Sharia-Based Law in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2011 "Losers of Market Transition in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2010 "Winners and Losers of Economic Transition in post-Soviet Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan," Invited talk at the International Relations Colloquium at Pomona College.
- 2009 "Determinants of Economic System Legitimacy in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- 2009 "Economic Justice Attitudes in Two (formerly similar) Countries: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.
- 2008 "Understanding Welfare State Attitudes in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." Presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 2005 "Are Middle Class Fears Good for Unions? Determinants of Pro-Union Voting Intentions Among Non-Union Workers in Indiana." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Sociology and Its View of the World  
 Quantitative Research Methods  
 Contemporary Central Asia  
 Social Inequality  
 Model Minority and Perpetual Foreigner: Asians in America  
 Sociology Senior Thesis Capstone

## **PITZER COLLEGE SERVICE**

Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure (2016 - 2018).  
 Campus Life Committee (2014-2015)  
 Academic Planning Committee (2011-2012; 2013-2014)  
 Campus Aesthetics Committee member (2010-2011)  
 Fulbright "coach" and interviewer (2009-present)

## **SOCIOLOGY FIELD GROUP SERVICE**

Curricular liaison (2011-2012; 2013-2015; 2017-2018)  
Convener (2010-2011; Spring 2014)

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

- 2014 Occasional reviewer for American Sociological Review, Demokratizatsiya: Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization.
- 2014 Discussant at session on “Welfare State.” American Sociological Association meeting, San Francisco, CA, August.
- 2014 Chair at session on “Parties, Leadership and Mobilization.” Joint Regional Conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Central Eurasian Studies Society, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan, May.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2012 – 2013 Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace Program (LDESP), Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. Faculty advisor.
- Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiative (KRTI), International Resources Group, Washington, DC. Technical consultant.
- 2000 – 2003 United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Kazakhstan. Served as Cognizant Technical Officer for USAID’s independent media projects in Central Asia. Managed projects with a combined budget of over \$9 million. Designed new programs and program components with implementing partners. Diversified USAID’s media portfolio to focus on local implementing partners and print media. Served as media expert during reporting and consultations with USAID officials. Represented USAID at international conferences. Traveled extensively to monitor and assess project implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan.

## **LANGUAGES**

Russian – native; Kazakh – fluent

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member of the American Sociological Association  
Member of the Central Eurasian Studies Society