Uzbekistan’s higher education sector has been criticized for its failure in moving towards Western education models for the last 27 years. The Uzbekistani government is now pursuing the policy of improving the country’s presence in various world university rankings by 2030. Based on this policy, Uzbekistani university teachers are now required to increase their publications in international peer-reviewed journals (indexed by Scopus and Web of Science).

The present talk analyzes cultural factors that impede the internationalization of Uzbekistan’s higher education. Among others, the norm of conformity that is widely shared in collectivist Uzbekistan is analyzed to see how this norm orders academic writings of Uzbekistani university teachers and how these writings culturally differ from writings produced in Western academic cultures. The talk assumes and empirically demonstrates that requiring from Uzbekistani university teachers to quickly start publishing in peer-reviewed journals is not just a political/administrative problem, but a cultural one.

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