



**WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21  
12:00 PM (ET)**

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## CERES Brown Bag Talk:

‘What elders know, angels do not know’: Poor representations of Uzbekistani university teachers in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals

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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.

Ulugbek Azizov (PhD from the University of Erfurt, Germany; MA from the University of Tsukuba, Japan) is an associate professor at the Social Sciences Department of the Uzbekistan State University of World Languages. He is the author of (his PhD thesis) the book: *Freeing from the Territorial Trap: Re-reading the ‘Five Stans’ Central Asian Spatial Discourse* (Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2015). His recent publication is titled: “Regional integration in Central Asia: From knowing-that to knowing-how” (*Journal of Eurasian Studies*, Sage, 2017). He is currently working on the article “‘The bones are ours, the flesh is yours’: When tradition is a constraint in academic mentorship of a contemporary Uzbekistan”, co-authored with Temur Dadabaev (professor at Tsukuba University, Japan), submitted to *Asian Ethnicity*, under review. He is also writing a book titled *Islam, the West, and Linguistic Politeness: A Comparison of Post-Soviet Uzbekistan and the United States*, co-authored with Arlene Clachar (professor emeritus, University of Miami, USA), in progress. Dr. Azizov’s research interests lie in language and culture, social theories in International Relations, discourse, Central Asian studies, Uzbekistan.

