



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Tel: 020 7679 8802
Fax: 020 7679 8755
email: ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk

Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

Surname	Reeves		
Forename	Madeleine		
Title (Dr, Professor, etc)	Dr		
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Address for correspondence

CRESC 178 Waterloo Place University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester Postcode: M13 9PL Tel no: 0161 275 8994 Email: Madeleine.Reeves@manchester.ac.uk
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Present appointment and employing institution

RCUK Research Fellow University of Manchester
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Role in activity

Workshop organiser

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

Rethinking the political in Central Asia: Perspectives from the Anthropology of the State

Location

Old Hall Hotel, Buxton

Date

From: 14 th September 2009	To: 17 th September 2009
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Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

<p>This small, invited workshop brought together for the first time a cohort of scholars who have studied the state ethnographically in Central Asia, together with senior scholars whose work has been seminal in advancing the anthropology of the state elsewhere. The workshop lasted 2.5 days (2-7pm; 9am-7pm and 9am-4.30pm); it was attended by 23 participants from 12 countries, and included 15 paper-gives (11 research papers and 4 X 20-minute "thought pieces" intended to contextualise discussion within each of the panels), 4 chairs and 4 discussants. In terms of seniority, the participants included both PhD candidates (Ismailbekova, Bissenova, Beyer, Laszczkowski, Dubuisson and Kendzior) and Professors (Harvey, Spencer, Kandiyoti), but the majority of participants were relatively junior (post-docs and lecturers), reflecting the current demographic of Central Asian scholarship. The paper-givers had all conducted research in Central Asia, whilst the chairs and discussants were senior and junior scholars who have amongst them have contributed to debates on the anthropology of the state in Peru, China, India, Mongolia, Syria, Ethiopia, Russia, Turkey, Albania and Sri Lanka. This breadth allowed us to retain an important comparative element and contributed enormously to the richness of discussion. A list of participants with biographies is included with this report, together with a copy of the workshop timetable.</p>
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3. Achievement of stated aims and objectives

Please summarise how the stated aims and objectives of the activities proposed have been achieved and how these have helped to further the aims and objectives of CEELBAS.

In developing this workshop, our intention was not to replicate the existing, large-scale conferences that have done much to advance the study of Central Asia over the last two decades, but rather to foster a collegiate, working environment amongst a cohort of scholars conducting research at the cutting edge of political anthropology in the region, and to share this research with the wider scholarly community, within and beyond the broader CEELBAS region. The format was intended to enable us to create a maximally “workshop-like” environment, in which the focus was less on research presentations than the intensive discussion and re-crafting of works-in-progress, with a view to eventual publication.

Several strategies facilitated this objective. Firstly, the research papers were pre-circulated 2 weeks before the event, and were made available in hard-copy at the workshop venue. This meant that we were able to engage in close reading of each others’ work and to draw out comparisons in ways that would not have been possible with oral presentations alone. Secondly, each of the four thematic panels was introduced by a 20-minute “thought piece” by one of the workshop organisers, the aim of which was to introduce the rationale for the panel, the convenor’s own perspective on the issues at stake; and to flag up interesting points of discussion that the papers collectively raised. Each panel also included a detailed, 20-minute commentary from one of the discussants and was followed by 50 minutes’ of open discussion. There was, therefore, a very explicit focus on thinking “with” the papers and paper-givers were able to use their 25 minutes of presentation time to flag up issues and questions that they felt arose from their material in the light of each others’ work. The final panel was followed by summative reflections from Deniz Kandiyoti (SOAS), before a plenary discussion which engaged the themes that we would like to pursue further and publication plans.

The environment was at once collegiate and intellectually rigorous; the venue was delightful and extremely good value for money; and the pace of work – which included a walk and informal discussion for those who were able to stay until the Thursday, allowed for us to discuss each of the papers in detail and to move beyond the specifics of the particular case to the substantive theoretical issues at stake. A significant objective – one that resonates with CEELBAS’ mission to develop research capacity on the target region, was to foster a stronger sense of intellectual community amongst scholars who typically tend to work in rather isolated fashion. Many participants commented specifically on this aspect of the event, as the attached evaluation forms attest.

4. Outcomes

Please indicate the outcomes and ‘value for money’ of activities carried out.

The workshop has resulted in 11 new research articles of publishable length and quality, together with 4 theoretical reflections that significantly advance the anthropology of the state in Central Asia. It has also advanced plans for publication of the papers as an edited collection, for which discussion is currently underway with Indiana University Press.

An international invited workshop is inevitably an expensive affair, but we were able to ensure value for money by:

- requesting international participants, where possible, to partially or fully cover their travel costs to the UK;
- conducting the event in Buxton rather than in Manchester, which is considerably cheaper;
- negotiating extremely preferential delegate rates of £108 inclusive of all meals/accommodation and room hire with the hotel;
- securing advance purchase tickets where possible;
- securing multiple sources of co-sponsorship.

5. Breakdown of total costs for workshops (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)	7439.68
Postgraduate participation	1748.42
Room/equipment hire Room hire was included in the cost of the delegate rate Equipment hire	£0 £300
Administration costs N/A (met from salaries)	
Printing and publicity (including conference packs) Folders and dividers Print-outs of all conference papers @ £4 * 23 copies Conference packs + badges @ £2 * 23	£64 £92 £46 =£202
Other (please specify 2 X Minibus (Manchester – Buxton for 14 people) 4 X airport transfers @ £40 (MIA- Buxton)	£100 £160 =£260
Total expenditure	£9950.10
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	£1,500

6. Breakdown of total costs for projects (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff costs	
Equipment/technical costs	
Administration costs	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	

7. Dissemination and further research

Please give details of dissemination of the outcomes of the workshop/project and any further research planned.

Paper-givers were encouraged to conceive of their work in terms of a contribution to an edited collection, and the organisers have subsequently met (November 2009) to develop the introduction to such a collection and to determine where we would like individual contributors to revise their papers. We are currently in discussion with the commissioning editor in Anthropology at Indiana University Press to publish the papers as an edited collection in an accessible format (both paper-back and hard-back). Our aim is to develop a volume that will contribute both to post-Soviet studies and to political anthropology.

8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature [hard copy is signed by Madeleine Reeves]
Date: 23.11.2009

Institutional authorisation (if required)
Position:
Date:

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact
[hard copy is signed by Vera Tolz]
Date: 24.11.2009

This form must be accompanied by an invoice from the applicant's institution, supported by receipts or other evidence of the expenditure incurred.

Please send the completed form to: CEELBAS Administrator, SSEES, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT and by email to: ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.

