



Seminar Session

Political economy of perestroika in Kazakhstan and Mongolia (republican elites vis-à-vis Moscow)

Venue: Zentralasien-Seminar, Institute für Asien and Afrikawissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Invalidenstrasse 118, 10115 Berlin, Raum 507

Time: 18 September, 17:00-19:00

Presenters: *Tolganai Umbetalieva* “The party elite’s transformation and evolution of ideas in the perestroika period in Kazakhstan”

Jigjidiyn Boldbaatar “Yumjaagijn Tsendenbal and his companions”

Language: Russian (partial translation into English is available upon the audience’s request)

The communities of Central and Inner Asia in the twentieth century are often conceptualised as responsive to the outside overarching influences exercised via authoritative Soviet/socialist institutions and discourses. We would suggest looking at the ‘centre-peripheral’ communication between Moscow and the republican elite of the Soviet Kazakhstan and socialist Mongolia in a critical comparative perspective. Our studies reveal the change in this communication that became apparent in the 1980s: Central Asian leaders started claiming more weight and positions at the all-union level, while the leaders of the Mongolian People’s Republic became more affirmative in their drive for more independent domestic and international economic policies. At the thickened historical times of perestroika they also influenced and shaped Moscow’s foreign policies, on the one hand, and the meanings of socialism as progressive development of the society, on the other.

Dr. Tolganai Umbetalieva is the Director of the Central Asian Foundation for Developing Democracy in Almaty. She has been a Fellow of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and conducted research at the Seminar for Central Asian Studies, Humboldt University in Berlin.

Academician Jigjidiyn Boldbaatar is the President of the Union of Historians of Mongolia, vice-president on academic affairs of Ulaanbaatar University, the former Member of Parliament and Constitutional Court of Mongolia.