

## ELENA KIM

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Bishkek 720042 Kyrgyzstan  
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### EDUCATION

2014

**PhD in Development Studies,**

Department of Philosophy, University of Bonn, Germany,  
Diploma with honors

Thesis title: International Development and Research in Central Asia:  
Exploring the Knowledge-based Social Organization of Gender.

Supervisor: Dr. Conrad Schetter

2003

**Master of Art in Gender Studies**

Department of Gender Studies, Central European University, Hungary,  
Diploma with honors

2002

**BA in Psychology**

Department of Psychology, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan,  
Diploma with honors

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aug 2021-  
present

Visiting Associate Professor, Psychology Department, Bard College, New  
York, USA

- Teaching undergraduate courses such as “Introduction to Psychological Science”, “Qualitative Methods of Inquiry in Psychology”, “Diverse Voices in Psychology”
- Supervising undergraduate senior theses, advising students, serving on moderation and senior boards

Aug 2013-  
July 2021

Associate Professor, Psychology Department, Social Sciences Division,  
American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Designed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses on ‘Gender and International Development’, ‘Gender, Women and Politics of

Violence’, ‘Gender, Women and Politics of Development in Central Asia’, ‘Women, Peace and Security’

- Supervised undergraduate and graduate theses
- Served on these defense committees and other ad hoc departmental committees including accreditation task force and external evaluation committee
- Mentored junior faculty members
- Produced in collaboration with faculty members teaching manuals on ‘Professional and Research Ethics’ and ‘Crisis and Emergency’

Aug 2007- July 2013 Assistant Professor, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek Kyrgyzstan

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses on ‘Research Methods for Social Sciences’, ‘Honors Thesis Writing Seminars’, ‘Gender and Women Studies’
- Chaired undergraduate thesis defense committee
- Served as an academic advisor to upper-level students in Psychology
- Organized outreach events such as 16 days campaign against violence against women

Aug 2005- July 2007 Instructor, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Taught introductory undergraduate courses on ‘Gender Studies’ and ‘Women’s studies’
- Participated in undergraduate thesis defense committee.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Oct 2020 – Feb 2021 National expert (Investigator)  
Community-based participatory research to map harmful social norms underpinning violence against women and girls, funded by the joint United Nations’ Spotlight Country Programme in Kyrgyzstan

- Designed, planned, conducted original ethnographic research project
- Led research team to collect data, co-create with local communities and produce research report to inform policies on elimination of violence against women and girls
- Wrote mid-term and final research report

Aug 2020 – to present Principal investigator  
Project title: “Eradicating campus-based violence in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Inclusive research, policy and action”. Funding was provided by the University of California Global Health Institute, The Women’s Health, Gender, and Empowerment Center of Expertise

- Initiated and prepared grant proposal

- Administered and oversaw implementation of all project activities
- Prepared financial and narrative report
- Coordinated cooperation with all stakeholders involved in the project
- Led all publication activities related to the project

2017 - 2020

Principal Investigator

Project title: “Combatting culturally endorsed gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan through higher education”. Funding was provided by the Development Marketplace Award, the World Bank.

- Conceptualized project idea, identified sources of funding and prepared project proposal
- Provided ultimate oversight of research, publications, and teaching new curriculum through the course of the project
- Supervised design, implementation of training on sexual and gender violence
- Carried out implementation of financial plans and financial reporting

2017-2018

Co-investigator

Project title: “The Impact of Community Empowerment on access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and services (including HIV) in line with the Sex Worker Implementation tool (SWIT) for female, male and transgender sex workers”. Funding was provided by Aidfonds & SOAIDS, Netherlands.

- Contributed to development of project proposal
- Prepared midterm narrative report
- Analyzed qualitative data and developed final research report
- Produced one manuscript for publication

2017

National Analyst

Project title: “Gender in Society Perception Study, Component on Gender and Migration in Kyrgyzstan”. Funding was provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

- Systematized and analyzed primary qualitative data
- Led a team of junior analysts to interpret ethnographic materials with a focus on gendered risks of labor migration
- Developed final research report
- Produced one manuscript for publication and presented it at various conferences

2016

Quality Control Supervisor (Investigator)

Project title: “Gender in Society Perception Study, Component on Violence against Women and Girls (Bride kidnapping and child marriage practices) in Kyrgyzstan”. Funding was provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

- Conceptualized research component and developed guidelines on data collection on harmful practices of bride kidnapping and child marriage in Kyrgyzstan
- Oversaw data collection processes by a team of eight field researchers
- Led data analysis process
- Produced and presented midterm and final research report

2015- 2016

Principal Investigator

Project title: “Women empowerment in rural Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Opportunities”. Funding was provided by the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs.

- Developed project idea and project proposal
- Administered project implementation including research and financial activities
- Led research team to conduct data collection
- Produced research report and one publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

2007-2010

Co-investigator

Project title: “Women's non-governmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan, international funding, and the social organization of gender”, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, International Opportunities Fund Program

- Contributed to preliminary data collection to inform the research project proposal
- Assisted with data collection and analysis
- Helped present the project at conferences and meetings
- Co-authored one publication in a peer-reviewed journal

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013-  
2021

Chair

Department of Psychology, American University of Central Asia

- Developed and ensured implementation of the Department’s strategic plan
- Led and successfully passed processes of state accreditation and state licensing
- Supervised the recruitment, selection and evaluation of faculty
- Oversaw curricular program, course scheduling, course offering and student performance
- Managed daily operation of the department

2017-  
to present

Co-chair and co-founder

Center for Critical Gender Studies, American University of Central Asia

- Developed grant proposals and led funded projects
- Represented the Center to external audience

- Contributed to a launch of a minor program in Gender Studies and Liberal Arts and Science Concentration in Gender Studies

2017 – Academic coordinator  
to present Executive Masters in Development Policies and Practice, Graduate Institute of Geneva and American University of Central Asia

- Designed, planned and taught a module on ‘Gender and International Development’
- Designed, planned and taught a module on ‘Gender, Peace and Conflict’
- Supervised executive theses
- Supported the program with administrative, logistical and financial management activities

2015- Head, Division of Social Sciences, American University of Central Asia  
2019

- Developed Division’s strategic plan
- Initiated and supervised Division’s events
- Harmonized Division’s course offering
- Introduced inter-departmental courses and modules

2015- Head, Master of Arts in Psychology  
2018

- Led design and introduction of the programme
- Developed and reformed program curriculum
- Ran recruitment campaign for the program
- Successfully obtained state accreditation

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed journal articles

Kim, E., Molchanova, E., Orozalieva, R. (2022). Bargaining with virginity-regulating practices in post-socialist Kyrgyzstan. *Central Asian Affairs*, 9(2-3), 294-323.

Kim, E. (2022). Competing discourses in the child protection system in Kyrgyzstan: Implications for redressing gender violence against girls. *Child Indicators Research*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-021-09900-6>

Kim, E. (2022). The global ruling of local crisis intervention. An institutional ethnography of anti-violence work in Kyrgyzstan. *Violence against Women*, 28(2), 593-616. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801220985933>

Kim, E. & Karioris, F. (2020). Bound to be grooms: The imbrication of economy, ecology, and bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan. *Gender, Place, and Society*, 28(11), 1627-1648. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2020.1829561>

Kim, E. (2020). Re-feminizing the post-soviet women: Identity, politics and virginity

- ceremonies in contemporary Kyrgyzstan. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 29(6), 706-716. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2020.1758043>
- Kim, E., & Standal, K. (2019). Empowered by electricity? The political economy of gender and energy in rural Naryn. *Gender, Technology and Development*, 23(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2019.1596558>
- Kim, E., Myrzabekova, M., Molchanova, E., & Yarova, O. (2018). The making of empowered women: Exploring gender and development practice in Kyrgyzstan. *Central Asian Survey*, 37(2), 228-246. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2018.1450222>
- Campbell, M., & Kim, E. (2018). The (missing) subjects of research on gender and global governance: Toward inquiry into the ruling relations of development. *Business Ethics: A European Review*, 27(4), 350-360. <https://doi.org/10.1111/beer.12189>
- Werner, C., Edling, C., Kim, E., Sartbay, F., Kleinbach, R., Becker, C., Teachout, W. (2018). Bride kidnapping in post-Soviet Eurasia: A roundtable discussion. *Central Asian Survey*, 37(4), 582-60. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2018.1511519>
- Molchanova, E., Horne, S., Kim, E., & Yarova, O. (2017). Hybridized indigenous healing in the Kyrgyz Republic: Helping survivors of violence. *Women & Therapy*, 41(1-2), 69-82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02703149.2017.1324187>
- Kim, E. (2014). Conceptual practice of “rural wellbeing” in Uzbekistan: Contradictions and implications for gender equality. *Rural Society*, 23(3), 242–255.
- Campbell, M., & Kim, E. (2011). Working across Boundaries: Exploring the Relations of Researching Gender and Development. *Women & Therapy*, 34(3), 261-278.
- Kim, E. (2004). Women’s involvement in religious fundamentalism: A case study of Hizb Ut-Tahrir, Kyrgyzstan. *Women’s Studies Review*, 9, 39-59. Galway: National University of Ireland.

### **Book chapters, peer-reviewed**

- Kenzhebaeva, Z., & Kim, E. (in press). Ashamed to mother: The practice of ‘nebere aluu’ in Kyrgyzstan. In H.Thibault and J-F. Caron (Eds.), *Uyat and the Culture of shame in Central Asia*. Palgrave MacMillian.
- Kim, E. (2022). The ‘war on women’ in Kyrgyzstan: Navigating between nationalism, extremism and patriarchy. In P. Knoope and S. de Leede (Eds.), *Negotiating gender in Central Asia: The effects of gender structures on dynamics on violent extremism* (pp. 43-71). Central Asia Program, The George Washington University.
- Kim, E., Myrzabekova, M., Molchanova, E., & Yarova, O. (2022). The making of empowered women: Exploring gender and development practice in Kyrgyzstan. In R.

Isaac (Ed.), *A critical reader in Central Asian Studies: 40 years of Central Asian Survey* (section 7: Gender). Routledge.

- Kim, E. (2019). Child marriage in Kyrgyzstan: Exploring institutional ambivalences in constructing the “victim”. In D. Bühler-Niederberger and L. Alberth (Eds.), *Victim, perpetrator, or what else?: Generational and gender perspectives on children, youth, and violence* (pp. 171-189). Emerald Publishing Limited.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/S1537-466120190000025010>
- Kim, E., & Molchanova, E. (2019). Resurgence of ethnic sports in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Still hunting for women. In G. Molnar, S. Amin, Y. Kanemasu (Eds.), *Women, sport and exercise in the Asia-Pacific region: Domination-resistance-accommodation* (pp. 49-61). Routledge.
- Kim, E. (2018). Sustainability of irrigation in Uzbekistan: Implications for women farmers. In P. T. Chandrasekaran (Ed.), *Water and sustainability*. IntechOpen.
- Kim, E. (2018). Explicating translocal organization of everyday life: Stories from rural Uzbekistan. In M. Stephan-Emmrich and Ph. Schröder (Eds.), *Mobilities, boundaries, and travelling ideas: rethinking translocality Beyond Central Asia and the Caucasus*. OpenBookPublishers.
- Kim, E., & Hornidge, A-K. (2015). IWRM in Uzbekistan: A global concept with local consequences. In *Integrated water resources management: Concept, research and implementation*. Springer.
- Kim, E. (2015). Exploring crisis intervention as practice: An institutional ethnography. In E. Molchanova & N. Agazade (Eds.), *Mental health services in emergencies and crises: Guidelines for emergency responders*. American University of Central Asia.
- Kim, E., & Campbell, M. (2013). Violence against women and peace building: Tracking ruling relations in women’s development NGO in Kyrgyzstan. In A. Choudry and D. Kapoor (Eds.) *NGO-ization: Complicity, contradictions and prospects* ( pp. 185-206). Zed Books.
- Molchanova, E., Kosterina, E., Kim, E., Horne, S. G., Latipova, K., & Koga, M. (2013). Counseling in the Kyrgyz Republic. In T. H. Hohenshil, N. E. Amundson & S. G. Niles (Eds.), *Counseling around the world: An international handbook* (pp. 107-116) American Counseling Association.
- Campbell, M., & Kim, E. (2013). Working across boundaries: Exploring the relations of researching gender and development. In K. L. Norsworthy and E. Kaschak (Eds.), *Global border crossings: Feminist activists and peace workers collaborating across cultures* ( pp. 51-68). Routledge.
- Molchanova, E., Kim, E., Horne, S., Aitpaeva, G., Alymkulov, J., Ten, V., & Pohilko, D. (2009). Status of Counseling in Kyrgyzstan. In L. H. Gerstein, P. P. Heppner, S. Ægisdóttir, S. M. A. Leung, & K. L. Norsworthy (Eds.), *International handbook of cross-cultural counseling* (pp. 265-281). Sage Publications.

## Research reports

- Kim, E. (2017). *Women and Labor Migration in Kyrgyzstan*. UN Women Gender in Society Perception Study. Bishkek: UN Women.
- Kim, E. (2016). *Violence against Women and Girls*. UN Women Gender in Society Perception Study. Bishkek: UN Women.
- Kim, E. & Ukueva, N. (2017). *Gender, poverty and environment in rural Kyrgyzstan: Issues of natural resource management, biodiversity and environmental degradation*. Bishkek: UNDP/UNEP/PEI.
- Kim, E. (2014). *Case-based analysis of existing economic and environmental practices of rural women in Suusamyr ayil okmotu, Kyrgyz Republic*. UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative. Bishkek: UDNP.
- Ukueva, N. & Kim, E. (2014). *Desk review of research on gender and environment*. UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative. Bishkek: UDNP.

**SERVICE** Served on various committees during my tenure at the American University of Central Asia including Faculty Senate, Academic Council (chair), Research Committee, Academic Policy Committee, Faculty Welfare Committee, Course Evaluation Committee, Institutional Review Board, Hiring Committee, International Student Exchange Selection Committee, Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee and other internal ad hoc committees.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-present | Division 35, Society for the Psychology of Women, American Psychological Association, USA          |
| 2021-present | Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology, Division 5, American Psychological Association, USA |
| 2017-present | Central Eurasian Studies Society, USA - Canada   |
| 2017-present | Association for the Study of Nationalism, Columbia University                                      |

## AWARDS

### Fellowships and Scholarships

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2022 | Mathew Nimetz Award for Outstanding Research, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan |
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- 2021 Mathew Nimetz Award for Outstanding Research, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- 2020 Mathew Nimetz Award for Outstanding Research, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Aug 2019- Oct 2019 Visiting Scholar Fellowship, School of Global Studies, University of Indiana, Bloomington, USA
- 2018 Mathew Nimetz Award for Outstanding Research, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- 2014-2015 Post-doctoral fellowship by Volkswagen-funded project “Translocal goods”, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 Award to conduct collaborative research project on “Gender and Development at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway.
- 2013 Award to participate in the “Enduring Question of Hate in Human Civilization” program, Hannah Arendt Center, Bard College, New York, USA.
- 2010-2013 Doctoral fellowship by German Academic Exchange Service to pursue program at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany
- 2011-2012 Research award by the Fiat Panis Foundation (Germany) to conduct research on “Social organization of gender”.
- 2005-2012 Returning Scholar fellowship by Academic Fellowship Program at Open Society Institute, Budapest, Hungary
- 2002-2003 Full scholarship by Open Society Institute to pursue MA program at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2000-2001 Full scholarship by the United States State Department’s Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (ACCELS/ACTR)

**LANGUAGES** Native speaker of Russian, fluent speaker of English

**TECHNICAL SKILLS** Communication software, online teaching platforms, standard office software applications

**REFERENCES** Dr. Marie Campbell  
Professor Emerita, University of Victoria, British Columbia  
1-372-5319-2725 [mariecam@uvic.ca](mailto:mariecam@uvic.ca)

Dr. Gwendolyn Murdock  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Counseling

Pittsburgh State University  
1-417-434-2454      gmurdock@pittstate.edu

Dr. Frank Karioris  
Director, Center for Critical Gender Studies  
1-414-349-6206      fgk@pitt.edu