

CONFERENCES

Two talks by **Saidolimkhon Caziev**, PhD candidate at the Institute of African and Asian Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany:

23.02.2026, 10:30-12:00

Rencontres du Prisme Genre du CETOBaC

Campus Condorcet, Bâtiment EHESS, salle A602. 2, cours des Humanités, 93300 Aubervilliers

and also online: <https://bbb.ehess.fr/b/luc-u2a-tqq-stn>

Policing Boundaries: Sexual and Gender Anxieties among Russians in Colonial Central Asia

In contrast to the scarcity of modern scholarship on women and other marginalized groups in pre-revolutionary Central Asia there is a wealth of data on these groups in the region's colonial archives. Police investigations, medical reports, bureaucratic papers, legal disputes, petitions, and court decisions form the bulk of these documents, complemented by periodicals, travelogues, memoirs, and other published sources. The challenge lies not in a shortage of information but in its abundance and its skewed perspective. Despite their preponderance most of these data were produced by privileged, patriarchal men in positions of power, and thus reflect their viewpoints. This presentation will seek to challenge these perspectives by examining two cases through a critical analysis of the documents.

24.02.2026, 11:00

Atelier Eurasie Centrale (GSRL/EPHE-PSL)

Campus Condorcet, Bâtiment Recherche Nord, salle 5.001. 14, cours des Humanités, 93300 Aubervilliers

Muslim Women Between Patriarchies: Prostitution, Sharia, and Colonialism in Russian Central Asia, 1866-1916

After the Russian conquest of Central Asia, the region's new rulers introduced the regulation of prostitution. Initially conceived as a predominantly hygienic measure, this policy had a significant impact on women's lives and generated a substantial amount of paperwork. These archival sources facilitate our understanding of how colonial authorities regulated, monitored, and intervened in women's bodies and everyday lives. A peculiar combination of military-colonial rule and limited application of sharia law created conditions conducive to the sexualised exploitation of women and children. Those of humble origins and limited resources were especially vulnerable to male predation. This presentation elucidates these conditions and examines the strategies women employed to navigate and survive these challenges.

Saidolimkhon Caziev is a PhD candidate at the Institute of African and Asian Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. His dissertation has a title "Muslim Women Between Patriarchies: Prostitution, Sharia, and Colonialism in Russian Central Asia, 1866-1916".



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