

# Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili

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## Academic Employment

**University of Pittsburgh**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Pittsburgh, PA USA

- Professor, 2022–present
- Associate Professor, 2017–2022
- Assistant Professor, 2009–2017

### Secondary Appointments

- Department of Economics
- Department of Political Science

### Leadership Positions at the University of Pittsburgh

- Founding Director, Center for Governance and Markets, 2019–present
- Director, International Development Program, 2017–2019

### University of Pittsburgh Affiliations

Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Global Studies, Ridgway Center for Security Studies, Ford Institute for Human Security, World History Center

## Visiting and Distinguished Appointments

Distinguished Scholar, Fulbright Scholar, **Tel Aviv University**, 2026  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

- Visiting Professor Appointments, Tel Aviv University
  - o Institute for Advanced Studies
  - o Safra Center for Ethics, Buchman School of Law
  - o Cegla Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Law

**University of Washington**, School of Law, Seattle, WA

- Affiliate Faculty, 2018-2023

## Service and Leadership Appointments

President-elect	Public Choice Society, 2026-2028
Board of Trustees	American University of Central Asia Foundation, 2025-present
Advisory Board	Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies, 2025-present
Advisory Board	Afghanistan Law and Political Science Association, 2024-present
Board of Trustees	Eurasia Foundation, 2024-present
Director	Public Choice Society, 2024-2026, 2026-2028
Contributing Editor	National Interest, 2023-
Advisory Board	Acton Institute, Collins Institute for Abrahamic Religions, 2023-
Executive Committee	American Institute for Afghanistan Studies, 2023-
Distinguished Fellow	Institute for Humane Studies, Peace and International Order, 2022-23
President (elected)	Central Eurasian Studies Society, 2021-23
Board Member	CEDOS (Kyiv-based think tank), 2018-2023
Research Associate	Governance & Local Development Institute, Univ. of Gothenburg, 2019-24

## Professional Appointments

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC  
Nonresident Scholar, Asia Program, 2021-present

Atlantic Council, Washington, DC  
Nonresident Senior Fellow, Eurasia Program, 2021

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan  
Senior Research Officer, 2007-2008

United States Agency for International Development, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
Democracy and Governance Officer, Central Asian Regional Mission, 1999-2002

United States Peace Corps  
Volunteer, English as Second Language and Community Development, 1997-1999

U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (now CRDF Global)  
Project Assistant, 1996-1997

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 2009

Fields: Comparative Politics (political economy, institutions, and politics of the former Soviet Union) and Research Methodology (formal theory, statistical methods, qualitative methods).

PhD Minor: Constitutional and Comparative Law.

M.A. Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 2006

M.A. Political Science, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 2003

B.S. Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 1997

Certificate in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Moscow Institute for Social and Political Studies, Moscow, Russia, Fall 1995

Coursework in Russian language on Russian politics and economy

## Awards, Testimony, and Keynote Addresses

- Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2024
- Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, University of Pittsburgh, 2024
- Elinor Ostrom Award, World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research, 2023
- Outstanding Civic Engagement Project Award, American Political Science Association, 2023
- Plenary Speaker, Public Choice Society, Seattle, WA, 2023
- Named One of the "World's Top Thinkers," Prospect Magazine (UK), 2022
- Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), Inclusion Award, 2022
- Keynote Speaker, US State Department C5+1 Security Initiative, "Opportunities and Challenges to Central Asia: Impact of the Situation in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and the Role of Regional Powers in Stability and Security." Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2022.
- Testimony, "China's Interests in Afghanistan and Pakistan," United States-China Security and Economic Review Committee, 2022
- Keynote Speaker, "Afghan Crisis: The New Taliban Regime and Its Impact on Central Asia." American University of Central Asia. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. March 2022.

- Testimony (closed door), “Central Asia after US Withdrawal from Afghanistan,” House of Representatives, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, October 2021
- Finalist, Elinor Ostrom Prize, World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research, 2021
- Independent Institute Excellence Prize, Finalist
  - For paper “American Institutional Exceptionalism and the Trump Presidency.” (with Tymofiy Mylovanov and Ilia Murtazashvili) 2021.
- Keynote Speaker, Conference on Peacebuilding and Local Governance, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2020.
- Best Book Award in Social Sciences (for previous two years), Central Eurasian Studies Society for *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan*, 2018.
- Honorable Mention, International Studies Association—Global Development Section Book Prize for *Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan*, 2017.
- Faculty Fellowship, University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2018.
- Donald Goldstein Professor of the Year Award, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, 2017 (teaching award).
- Finalist, Elinor Ostrom Award, International Association for the Study of the Commons, 2015.
- Fellow, University of Wisconsin—Madison, School of Law, 2005-07.
- United States Agency for International Development, Superior Unit Citation for “Designing and implementing post-September 11 conflict mitigation programs vital to the stability of Central Asia and critical to the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives,” 2002.

## Grants and Gifts

### External (Principal Investigator on all Grants)

Constitution Day Support, Jack Miller Center, 2026, \$3,000

Anonymous Gift, Support for Global Partnerships, Center for Governance and Markets, 2026, \$1,000,000

Pluralism360@Pitt: A University- and Region-Wide Model for Civil Discourse and Civic Leadership, U.S. Department of Education, 2026-2029, \$2.7 million

Support for Conference on Voluntary Governance, Bradley Foundation, 2025-2026, \$50,000

Anonymous Gift, Support for Global Partnerships, Center for Governance and Markets, 2024, \$1,200,000

Alternative Orders: Developing and Deploying Cutting-edge Methods to Analyze the Evolution of Customary Governance in a Modern World, Templeton World Charitable Foundation, 2023-2026, \$250,000.

New Approaches to Development Assistance, Rising Tide Foundation, 2023-2025, \$375,000

Governing Deep Difference: Modus Vivendi, Polycentrism, and Institutional Diversity, John Templeton Foundation, 2022-2025, \$2,400,000

Support for Afghan Scholars at Center for Governance and Markets; Afghanistan Project. Anonymous Donation, 2021, \$1,100,000

Support for Scholars in Ukraine, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, 2022, \$100,000.

International Scholar Support, Open Society University Network—Central European University, 2022, \$275,000 (to host four scholars; open ended agreement to provide additional support to scholars)

Central Asian Governance Knowledge Hub, American Councils for International Education, 2022, U.S. Department of State, \$20,000

Support for Scholars at Risk, Atlas Network, 2022, \$405,000

Support for Afghan Scholars at Center for Governance and Markets; Established Afghanistan Project. Anonymous Donation. 2021, \$250,000

Afghan Asylum Assistance Task Force, Elsie Hillman Foundation, 2021, \$25,000

Subnational Governance in Nepal, Center for International Private Enterprise, 2020, \$83,000

Developing Public Administration Education in Kazakhstan, American Councils for International Education, U.S. Department of State, 2020, \$20,000

Center for Governance and Markets, Charles Koch Foundation, 2019-2025, \$4,200,000

United States Agency for International Development - Institute for International Education, 2016, \$33,000

Conference on Afghanistan in Regional Perspective, United States Institute of Peace. 2013, \$2,000

Electoral Reform in Afghanistan, United States Agency for International Development - Democracy International, 2011-2012, \$20,000

## **Intramural**

### **University of Pittsburgh**

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Travel Grant, 2018, \$2,000.

Faculty Research Grant, Richard Thornburgh Law and Public Policy Forum, 2014, \$5,000.

Conference Grant, University of Pittsburgh, Center for Asian Studies, 2013, \$3,000.

Conference Grant, University of Pittsburgh, European Union Studies Center/EU Center for Excellence, 2013, \$2,000.

Conference Grant, University of Pittsburgh, Global Studies Center, 2013, \$3,000.

Conference Grant, Center for Russian and East European Studies, 2013, \$5,000.

Faculty Research Grant, Center for Global Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2011.

Domestic Travel Grant, Center for Global Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2011.

### **University of Wisconsin--Madison**

Vilas Travel Fellowship, 2006–2007, 2008–9.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship - Persian Language Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2003–2004, (declined 2004–2005).

## **Publications**

### **Books**

*Democracy, Liberalism, and Polycentricism in Afghanistan*. Lexington Books. Edited with Omar Sadr (forthcoming)

*Governing Differences: Social Diversity, Polycentric Political Economy and Modus Vivendi*. 2025. Edward Elgar Publishing. Edited with Paul Dragoş Aligică.

*Toward a Political Economy of the Commons: Simple Rules for Sustainability*. 2022. New Thinking in Political Economy Series. Edward Elgar Press. (with Meina Cai, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Raufhon Salahodjaev).

*Land, the State, and War: Property Institutions and Political Order in Afghanistan* 2021. Cambridge University Press. (with Ilia Murtazashvili)

*The Origins and Consequences of Property Rights: Austrian, Public Choice, and Institutional Economics Perspectives*. 2020. Element Series; Cambridge University Press. (with Colin Harris, Meina Cai, and Ilia Murtazashvili)

*Informal Order and the State in Afghanistan*. 2016. Cambridge University Press.

- Central Eurasian Studies Society, Best Book Award in Social Sciences (for previous two years), 2018.
- International Studies Association, Global Development Section, Honorable Mention, 2017.

## Edited Special Issues

Special Issue: The Political Economy of the War in Ukraine. (2024). *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*: Volume 39, Issue 1 (2024): Guest Edited by Tymofii Brik, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, Ilia Murtazashvili.

## Journal Articles

- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2025. “The Problem of Governance.” *Frontiers in Political Science* 7 (2025).
- Sharif, Sally, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. “Rebel Victory and Constitutional Change.” *Public Choice*, 2025.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick and Ilia Murtazashvili, “Informal Institutions and Comparative Politics: A Review Essay.” *Comparative Politics*, 2024.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Nataliia Shapoval, and Ilia Murtazashvili. 2024. “The Political Economy of Public Procurement in Ukraine.” *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*: 1–21.
- Qadam Shah, Mohammad, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, and Martin BH Weiss. “Exploring the Potential for Blockchains in Fragile States.” *Chinese Public Administration Review*, 2023.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, “The Collapse of Afghanistan.” *Journal of Democracy* 33, no. 1 (2022): 40–54.
- Bustamante, Pedro, Meina Cai, Marcela Gomez, Colin Harris, Prashant Krishnamurthy, Wilson Law, Michael J. Madison, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, et al. “Government by Code? Blockchain Applications to Public Sector Governance.” *Frontiers in Blockchain* 5 (2022).
- Cai, Meina, Gregory W. Caskey, Nick Cowen, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, and Raufhon Salahodjaev. “Individualism, Economic Freedom, and Charitable Giving.” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2022: 868–84.
- Alston, Eric, Pedro Bustamante, Marcela Gomez, Colin Harris, Prashant Krishnamurthy, Michael Madison, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Martin Weiss. 2022, “Ostrom Amongst the Machines: Blockchain as a Knowledge Commons” *Cosmos + Taxis*.
- Crepelle, Adam, Tate Fegley, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, “Community Policing on American Indian Reservations: A Preliminary Investigation.” 2021. *Journal of Institutional Economics*.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2021. “The Endurance and Evolution of Afghan Customary Governance.” *Current History* 120 (825): 140–45.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, Ilia Murtazashvili, Tymofiy Mylovanov. “American Institutional Exceptionalism and the Trump Presidency.” 2021 *Independent Review*.
  - Independent Institute Excellence Prize, Finalist.

- Cai, Meina, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Hui Wang. 2020. “Sugarcoating the Bitter Pill: Compensation, Land Governance, and Opposition to Land Expropriation in China.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 47(6): 1371–92.
- Cai, Meina, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, and Raufhon Salahodjaev. 2020. “Patience and Climate Change Mitigation: Global Evidence.” *Environmental Research* 186: 109552.
- Jochem, Torsten, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2020. “Can the Design of Electoral Institutions Improve Perceptions of Democracy in Fragile States? Evidence from Afghanistan.” *Journal of Global Security Studies* 5(3): 443–62.
- Cai, Meina, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2020. “The Politics of Land Property Rights.” *Journal of Institutional Economics* 16(2): 151–67.
  - Finalist, Elinor Ostrom Prize, World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research
- Cai, Meina, Ilia Murtazashvili, Jennifer Murtazashvili, and Raufhon Salahodjaev. 2020. “Individualism and Governance of the Commons.” *Public Choice* 184(1–2): 175–95.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Ilia Murtazashvili. 2020. “Wealth-Destroying States.” *Public Choice* 182(3–4): 353–71.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2019. “Pathologies of Centralized State-Building.” *PRISM* 8(2): 14.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2019. “The Political Economy of State Building.” *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* 34(2): 189–207.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2019. “What Can We Learn about Theories of Self-Governance by Studying Its Most Extreme Cases?” *The Review of Austrian Economics*.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, Jennifer Murtazashvili, and Raufhon Salahodjaev. 2019. “Trust and Deforestation: A Cross-Country Comparison.” *Forest Policy and Economics* 101: 111–19.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2019. “The Political Economy of Legal Titling.” *The Review of Austrian Economics* 32(3): 251–68.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2018. “A Tired Cliché: Why We Should Stop Worrying About Ungoverned Spaces and Embrace Self-Governance.” *Journal of International Affairs* 71(2): 11–29.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2017. “Coercive Capacity, Land Reform and Political Order in Afghanistan.” *Central Asian Survey* 36(2): 212–30.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2016. “Afghanistan: A Vicious Cycle of State Failure.” *Governance* 29(2): 163–66.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2016. “Can Community-Based Land Adjudication and Registration Improve Household Land Tenure Security? Evidence from Afghanistan.” *Land Use Policy* 55: 230–39.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2016. “When Does the Emergence of a Stationary Bandit Lead to Property Insecurity?” *Rationality and Society* 28(3): 335–60.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2016. “Does the Sequence of Land Reform and Political Reform Matter? Evidence from State-Building in Afghanistan.” *Conflict, Security & Development* 16(2): 145–72.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2016. “The Origins of Private Property Rights: States or Customary Organizations?” *Journal of Institutional Economics* 12(01): 105–128.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2016. “Afghanistan in 2015.” *Asian Survey* 56(1): 187–98.
- Jochem, Torsten, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2016. “Establishing Local Government in Fragile States: Experimental Evidence from Afghanistan.” *World Development* 77: 293–310.
- Jochem, Torsten, Ilia Murtazashvili, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2015. “Social Identity and Voting in Afghanistan: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 2(1): 47–62.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2015. “Gaming the State: Consequences of Contracting out State Building in Afghanistan.” *Central Asian Survey* 34(1): 78–92.

- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2015. “Bad Medicine.” *Central Asian Affairs* 2(1): 10–34.
- Murtazashvili, Ilia, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2015. “Anarchy, Self-Governance, and Legal Titling.” *Public Choice* 162(3): 287–305.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2015. “Afghanistan in 2014: Year of Transition.” *Asian Survey* 55(1): 21–32.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2014. “Informal Federalism: Self-Governance and Power Sharing in Afghanistan.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 44(2): 324–43.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2012. “Colored by Revolution: The Political Economy of Autocratic Stability in Uzbekistan.” *Democratization* 19(1): 78–97.
  - Reprinted: Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2014. “Colored by Revolution: The Political Economy of Autocratic Stability in Uzbekistan.” In *Colored Revolutions and Authoritarian Reactions*, eds. Evgeny Finkel and Yitzhak M. Brudny. New York: Routledge, 78–79.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2010. “Armed with Practice: Learning to Engage with the Military.” *The Forum* 8(3).

### Book Chapters and Other Writing

- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Democracy Denied: The False Promise of Afghanistan’s Constitutions.” In *Democracy in South Asia*. Routledge. 2025.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2024. “WIDER Working Paper 2024/43-The Experimented Society: Interventions, Social Science, and the Failure of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Afghanistan.”
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2023. “Local Political Organizations in Afghanistan,” in *Central Asia in the World*. eds. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix and Madeleine Reeves, Routledge.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2022. “Customary Governance and the State in Central Asia.” In *Central Asia in Context*, ed. David W. Montgomery. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2021. “Maliks.” *Global Informality Project*.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2021. “Mullahs.” *Global Informality Project*.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2020. “The Wealth and Poverty of Self-Governing Communities.” In *Philosophy, Politics, and Austrian Economics*, Advances in Austrian Economics, eds. Daniel J. D’Amico and Adam G. Martin. Emerald Publishing Limited, 153–72. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2020. “Central Asia.” In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 159–63.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Ilia Murtazashvili. 2020. “Bottom-Up State-Building.” In *Bottom-up Responses to Crisis*, Mercatus Studies in Political and Social Economy, eds. Stefanie Haeffele and Virgil Henry Storr. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 113–30. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Ilia Murtazashvili. 2020. “When Is Top-Down State-Building Appropriate?” In *Government Responses to Crisis*, Mercatus Studies in Political and Social Economy, eds. Stefanie Haeffele and Virgil Henry Storr. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 111–27. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2016. “Can a Shale Gas Revolution Save Central and South Asia?” In *The Global Impact of Unconventional Shale Gas Development: Economics, Policy, and Interdependence*, Natural Resource Management and Policy, eds. Yongsheng Wang and William E. Hefley. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 171–97.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2016. “Subnational Governance in Afghanistan: Back to the Future.” In *State Strengthening in Afghanistan: Lessons Learned, 2001-14*, eds. Scott Smith and Colin Cookman. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 53–68. (peer-reviewed)
- Stanfield, J. David, Jennifer Murtazashvili, Mohammad Yasin Safar, and Akram Salam. 2013. “Community Documentation of Land Tenure and Its Contribution to State Building in Afghanistan.” In *Land and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, eds. Jon Unruh and Rhodri Williams. New York: Routledge, 265–92. (peer-reviewed)

- Stanfield, J. David, Mohammad Yasin Safar, Akram Salam, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2010. “Rangeland Administration in (Post) Conflict Conditions: The Case of Afghanistan.” In *Innovations in Land Rights Recognition, Administration, and Governance*, eds. Klaus Deininger, Clarissa Augustinus, Stig Enemark, and Paul Munro-Faure. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 225–41. (peer-reviewed)

## Review Articles and Book Reviews

- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “One New Book About Two Ancient Faiths.” *The Dispatch*, February 1, 2025.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2020. “Central Asia in the Era of Sovereignty: The Return of Tamerlane?” *Russian Review*.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2020. “Dan Honig, *Navigation by Judgment: Why and When Top-Down Management of Foreign Aid Doesn’t Work* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).” *Public Administration Review* 80(5): 904–5.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer et al. 2018. “Warlords and Coalition Politics in Post-Soviet States, by Jesse Driscoll.” *Caucasus Survey* 6(2): 163–81.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2018. “Review: Order at the Bazaar: Power and Trade in Central Asia.” *Central Asian Affairs* 5(4): 373–87.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2016. “Securing Afghanistan: From the inside Out.” *Central Asian Survey* 35(4): 572–76.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2015. “Iraqi Federalism and the Kurds: Learning to Live Together, by Alex Danilovich.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 45(1): e1.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2010. “Changing Poverty, Changing Policies.” *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice* 12(5): 547–48.

## Research Reports and Policy Engagement

- Rayamajhee, Veeshan, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, and Aditi Upadhyaya. 2022. *The State of Federalism in Nepal*, Center for International Private Enterprise, Washington, DC.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, et. al. *Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment: Afghanistan-Central Asia Border Region and the Ferghana Valley*. Joint policy report between the World Bank, the United Nations, and the Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (UK). 2021. Lead author. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. 2021. *Democracy Denied: The False Promise of Afghanistan’s Constitutional Order*. Kabul: Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and David Jackson. 2018. *Engaging Customary Authority in Community-Driven Development to Reduce Corruption Risks*. Oslo: Chr. Michelsen Institute. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick et al. 2017. *Tajikistan Risk and Resilience Assessment*. Washington, DC: World Bank. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2016. *Assessment of Local Governance in Tajikistan*. Washington, DC: United States Agency for International Development.
- Nijat, Aarya, and Jennifer Murtazashvili. 2015. *Women’s Leadership Roles in Afghanistan*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace. (peer-reviewed)
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2013. *Evaluation Baseline Report: Tajikistan Local Governance Project Impact Evaluation*. Washington, DC: United States Agency for International Development.
- Murtazashvili, Jennifer. 2012. *Survey on Political Institutions, Elections, and Democracy in Afghanistan*. Washington, DC: Democracy International and United States Agency for International Development.

## Works in Progress

### Books in Progress

Modern Guide to Informal Governance (edited volume under consideration at Edward Elgar Press)

Customary Authority in a Modern World (proposal under revision with Cambridge University Press, Element Series in International Development)

Built to Fail: How Institutional Legacies and Aid Derailed Governance and Stability in Afghanistan (with Mohammad Qadam Shah)

## Public and Civic Engagement

### Media Appearances

Fox News, BBC TV, Bloomberg TV, Al Jazeera TV (English and Arabic), TRT World, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, LA Times, Financial Times, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, Afghanistan International, Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Foreign Policy, The Diplomat, and many others.

### Opinion Pieces

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “In Israel, Wartime Reality Doesn’t Match What You See on the Internet.” *The Washington Post*, March 27, 2026.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[A War for Something.](#)” *The Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, March 4, 2026.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[Why Pittsburgh’s Jewish Community Should Care About the Massacre in Iran](#).” *The Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, January 21, 2026.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[America Already Has the Tools to Heal Division — We Just Need to Relearn How to Use Them.](#)” *Big Think*, November 12, 2025.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[Deals, Not Declarations: America’s New Central Asia Strategy.](#)” *The National Interest*, November 6, 2025.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[Donald Trump, the Neoconservative.](#)” *The National Interest*, September 22, 2025.

Al Mutar, Faisal Saeed, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. “Reimagining US Foreign Aid as a Tool for Change.” *The National Interest*, July 30, 2025.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[How to Make Human Rights Advocacy Credible Again.](#)” *The National Interest*, June 25, 2025.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[One New Book About Two Ancient Faiths.](#)” *The Dispatch*, February 1, 2025.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Temur Umarov. “[Nobody’s Backyard: A Confident Central Asia.](#)” *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Translations: [Russian](#), [Turkish](#)

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[How Hope For Unity Can Erode After Tragedy.](#)” *The Dispatch*, July 21, 2024.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “[Central Planners Can’t Fix Iraq—or Detroit.](#)” *Reason Magazine*. March 2024.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick and Abedsalam Souidi, “Two Friends—One Jewish, One Muslim—Have an Answer to Campus Conflict.” *Tablet Magazine*. January 16, 2024.

- [Farsi](#) translation

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “The Taliban and Central Asia.” *The Diplomat Magazine*. October 2023.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Kazakhstan’s Tokayev Is Playing With Fire at Home—and With Russia.” *World Politics Review*, February 3, 2023.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Do No Harm: America Must Put Afghans First.” *The National Interest*. August 20, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Nataliia Shapoval. “Drowning Democracy.” *Journal of Democracy*. August 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Akram Umarov. “What Are the Implications of Uzbekistan’s Rapprochement With the Taliban?,” *The Diplomat*. August 8, 2022.

Akram Umarov, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. “Where Russia’s Afghanistan Policy Went Wrong.” *The National Interest*. July 15, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Toward a Global Revolution of Dignity.” *The National Interest*. July 7, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Uzbekistan’s Unrest, Explained.” *Foreign Policy*. July 6, 2022.

Brik, Tymofii, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. “The Source of Ukraine’s Resilience,” *Foreign Affairs*. June 28, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Central Asian Countries Now Have Two Big Worries about Russia.” *Washington Post*. March 2, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Jennifer Murtazashvili: The Precious, Fragile Gift of Freedom.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. February 28, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Biden Continues to Bungle Afghanistan.” *The National Interest*. February 14, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Afghanistan Collapse Was Not Inevitable.” *Slate*. February 2, 2022.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Northern Afghanistan Once Kept Out The Taliban. Why Has It Fallen So Quickly This Time?” *Washington Post*. July 28, 2021.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “How Will the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan Affect the Countries of Central Asia? Interview with Jennifer Murtazashvili.” *Central Asian Bureau for Analytical Reporting*. July 12, 2021.

Expert analysis, “Hopes Dim for Reformed Kyrgyzstan as New President Consolidates Power.” *Atlantic Council*. October 28, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. “Community Before Politics.” *Discourse Magazine*. October 27, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Colleen Wood. “Election Officials Annulled Kyrgyzstan’s October Election. Here’s Why.” *Washington Post*. October 10, 2020.

Expert Analysis. Kyrgyzstan Gripped by Political Chaos Again: What Comes Next? *Atlantic Council*. October 8, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer, and Bahrom Mirakilov. “The Paradox of Uzbekistan’s Budding Virtual Civic Space.” *The Diplomat*. August 20, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Mohammad Qadam Shah. "Defund Afghanistan." *Discourse Magazine*. July 21, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "The Role of Russia and the Russian Language in Post-Karimov Uzbekistan." *Atlantic Council*. June 1, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "The Problem Today Is Not Tribalism but Its Absence." *Discourse Magazine*. May 20, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer, and Mohammad Qadam Shah. "Political Reform Urgently Needed in Afghanistan." *The Diplomat*. February 22, 2020.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and David Jackson. "Can Customary Authority Reduce Risks of Corruption and Local Capture?" *Public Administration Review Blog*. October 23, 2018.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick, and Aarya Nijat. "Women's Leadership from the Bottom Up." *University World News*. July 8, 2016.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick and Ilia Murtazashvili. "The Sequence of Land Reform and Political Reform." *Political Violence at a Glance*. July 6, 2016.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "How Ghani Learned to Play the Tribal Game." *Foreign Policy*. November 2, 2014.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "Resetting Afghanistan." *Mark Syndicated News Service*. March 22, 2014.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "Land and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding." *Terra Nullius*. May 8, 2013.

Murtazashvili, Jennifer Brick. "Waiting for Gauhar Kamardinova." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. September 25, 2011.

## Public and Podcast Appearances

Israel Update/Tablet Magazine. "The Politics Behind the 'Settler Violence' Campaign." March 31, 2026.

New Media UFM. "[Foreign Aid and Community-Level Governance](#)." August 21, 2025.

University of Chicago, Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression. "[What Might Peace Look Like? A Conversation with Professor Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili of the University of Pittsburgh](#)." October 23, 2024.

Free Market Institute, Texas Tech University. "[Power to the People: Can Decentralization Solve Violent Conflicts?](#)" 2024–25 ASU Public Speaker Series, September 10, 2024.

Mercatus Center, George Mason University. "[Freedoms Delayed: Political Legacies of Islamic Law in the Middle East](#)." Book Panel with James Robinson, Mark Koyama, and Timur Kuran, May 1, 2024.

University of Pittsburgh. "Protected Speech: Shaping the University's Educational Mission." Panel Discussion, April 25, 2024.

Wisdom of Crowds. "[How to Disagree Without Compromise](#)." Podcast Discussion, March 30, 2024.

Templeton Ideas. "[Jennifer Murtazashvili \(Cooperation and Conflict\)](#)." Podcast Interview, February 15, 2024.

New Lines Institute, Eurasian Connectivity Podcast. "[Security and Politics in the Caspian and Black Sea Region.](#)" Podcast Interview, November 17, 2023.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "[Reimagining Continental Asia: Launching a New Carnegie Initiative.](#)" Panelist, October 4, 2023.

Intrigue Outloud. "[Journey to the Center of the Earth: The Next Geopolitical Hotspot.](#)" Podcast Interview, March 31, 2023.

Interpreting India, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "[Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili on Central Asia and the Russia-Ukraine War.](#)" Podcast Interview, March 9, 2023.

Politics + Media 101. "[Jen Brick Murtazashvili: Are Central Asian Countries Shifting Away From Russia?](#)" Podcast Interview, March 7, 2023.

Ideas of India, Mercatus Center. "[Jennifer Murtazashvili on The Future of Afghanistan.](#)" Podcast Interview, August 4, 2022.

Atlantic Council. "[Nukus, Reform in Uzbekistan, and US-Uzbek Relations.](#)" Panelist, July 14, 2022.

DACOR, Washington, DC. "The Stans: Where US Interests are Tested in Redefining Diplomacy." Public Presentation, June 2022.

Democracy Paradox. "[Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili and Iiia Murtazashvili on Afghanistan, Local Institutions, and Self-Governance.](#)" Podcast Interview, March 8, 2022.

United States Institute of Peace. "Does US Strategy in Central Asia Address the Region's Current Problems?" Panelist, January 2022.

Atlantic Council. "[Where Is Unrest Taking Kazakhstan?](#)" Panelist, January 2022.

Harvard University, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. "Bridging State and Civil Society: Informal Organizations in Tajik/Afghan Badakhshan." Panelist, January 2022.

Tadalab (Pakistan), Afghanistan Solutions Summit. Panelist, January 2022.

Eurasia Foundation, Young Professionals Network. Presentation, December 2021.

Institute for War and Peace Studies. "Implications of the Afghan Government's Collapse on Its Neighboring Countries—Russia, Iran, and Central Asia." Panelist, November 2021.

Caspian Policy Center, Caspian Security Conference. Panelist, November 2021.

Newlines Institute. "Mapping Out Central Asia's Geopolitical Importance." Panelist, Washington, DC, October 2021.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Afghanistan after US Withdrawal: Great Power Dynamics in Central Asia and Beyond." Panelist, August 2021.

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Center for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament. "Finding the Leverage: The Challenge of Stabilizing Afghanistan." Panelist, August 2021.

Columbia University, Harriman Institute. "Russia and Central Asia after Afghanistan Withdrawal." Panelist, August 2021.

Central Asia Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. "Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Resurgence of the Taliban." Panelist, July 2021.

Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Istanbul. "U.S.-Afghanistan Relations: Vision for the Future." Participant, July 2021.

Observer Research Foundation (India), Wilson Center (USA), and IMEMO (Russia). "2021: Afghanistan's Year of Reckoning." Panelist, July 2021.

Raiders of the Lost Archive (hosted by Christian Davenport and Jesse Driscoll). ["Episode 6: Jen Murtazashvili."](#) Podcast Interview, June 2021.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Central Asia after Afghanistan: The Implications of the US Withdrawal." Panelist (off-the-record briefing for senior US policymakers), June 2021.

Atlantic Council and the National Center for Dialogue and Peace (Kabul). "Democratization and the Road Ahead for Afghanistan: Engaging the Native Population in Striving for Fundamental Human Values." Panelist, June 2021.

Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies. "The Possibility of Producing Consensus within the Parliamentary and Decentralized System of Democracy in Afghanistan." Panelist, May 2021.

Atlantic Council. ["Border Battle: Assessing the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan Clashes."](#) Panelist, May 10, 2021.

Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies. "Democracy Denied: The False Promise of Afghanistan's Constitutional Order." Panelist, May 2021.

Los Angeles World Affairs Council. "The Future of US Policy in Afghanistan – Human Rights, US Military Presence, and Confronting the Taliban." Panelist, January 25, 2021.

Council on Foreign Relations. "The Peril and Promise of the Afghan Peace Process: A Regional Perspective." Panelist, November 19, 2020.

Institute for War and Peace Reporting. "The Power of Conflicts and Protests in Central Asia—Comparative Analysis." Panelist, November 5, 2020.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. "Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and EU Relations." Panelist, October 15, 2020.

Center for International Private Enterprise. "Economic Transitions and Democratic Transitions – What's the Big Deal?" Roundtable respondent (with Thomas Carothers and Francis Fukuyama), October 8, 2020.

McColm & Company. "Negotiating Peace in Afghanistan: The Way Forward." Panelist, September 29, 2020.

Atlantic Council, Eurasia Congressional Fellowship Virtual Roundtable. "Eurasian Hotspots." Panelist (briefing for congressional committee staffers), September 25, 2020.

International Labor Organization and Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. "Promoting Productive Employment during the COVID-19 Crisis in Uzbekistan." Moderator and Discussant, September 23, 2020.

Majlis Podcast, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. ["What Has Changed in Mirziyoyev's Four Years as Uzbek President?"](#) Podcast Panelist, September 6, 2020.

Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (Kabul). "Afghanistan–Central Asia: Prospects and Challenges in Bilateral Cooperation on Security and Peace." Panelist, August 29, 2020.

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies. "Prospects of Cooperation between Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and the United States." Panelist, July 23, 2020.

Central Asia Program, George Washington University. "Crisis Management as a Test of Reforms in Uzbekistan." Panelist, June 11, 2020.

Postindustrial Podcast. Podcast Interview, May 13, 2020.

World Bank – Central Asia. "Political Economy of Reforms in Central Asia." Panelist and Moderator, February 25, 2020.

Hoshimov Iqtisodiyoti (Hoshimov's Economics). "Political Economy and Governance in Central Asia." Podcast Interview, February 4, 2020.

The Governance Podcast, Centre for the Study of Governance and Society, King's College London. ["Self-Governing Social Orders, Economic Methods and Academic Women: A Roundtable Discussion."](#) Podcast Interview, November 25, 2019.

Majlis Podcast, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. "Role of Women in Central Asian Governments." Podcast Panelist, October 13, 2019.

Governance Uncovered, Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg. ["Decentralization and Reforms in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan."](#) Podcast Interview, May 2019.

Hayek Program Podcast, Mercatus Center. ["Public Entrepreneurship, Citizenship, and Self-Governance Book Panel."](#) Podcast Panelist, February 12, 2019.

Economic Rockstar. ["Jennifer Murtazashvili on Democracy and Informal Order in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan."](#) Podcast Interview, December 2018.

Majlis Podcast, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. ["Is Uzbekistan Reforming Under Its New President?"](#) Podcast Panelist, October 4, 2018.

Hayek Program Podcast, Mercatus Center. ["Christopher Coyne and Jennifer Murtazashvili on Foreign Aid and Development."](#) Podcast Interview, September 2018.

## Invited Talks

Tel Aviv University, 2026

Harvard University, Davis Center, 2025

College of Charleston, 2025

Texas Tech University, 2024

Creighton University, 2024

University of Chicago, 2024.

Angelo State University, 2024

Institute for Liberal Studies (Canada), 2024

Goucher College, 2024

Boston University, 2024

University of Pittsburgh—Greensburg, 2024

Stanford University, Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, 2023

Kenyon College, Center for the Study of American Democracy 2023

University of Wisconsin—Madison, 2023

University of Chicago, Institutions, Organizations, and Growth Program, 2023

Munk School, University of Toronto, 2023

Indian Institute of Public Policy, New Delhi, 2022

Cornell University, Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 2022

Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. United Kingdom, 2022

George Washington University, 2022

Lahore University for Management Sciences, Mahbub ul Haq Research Center, 2022

U.S. Army War College, 2022

Centre de recherches sociologiques et politiques de Paris, 2021

Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies, Mehr Lecture on the Afghanistan Peace Process, 2021

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, 2021

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Tashkent, 2020

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Kabul, June 2020

University of Chicago, Pearson Institute for the Study of Violent Conflict, Inaugural Pearson Global Forum, October 2018

Brown University, 2018

Centil Law, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. June 2018

Development Strategy Center, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. May 2018

George Mason University, Workshop in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, January 2018

World Bank, October 2016

Yale University, InterAsia Program, McMillan Center for International Studies, 2016  
U.S. Army, Human Terrain Systems, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. 2012, 2013  
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, Department of Defense, Arlington, VA. 2013 and 2010  
Indiana University, Workshop on Policy Analysis and Political Theory, Indiana University, 2011  
Australian National University, Graduate School of International Affairs. 2010  
National Defense Science Board, Counterinsurgency Task Force, National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC. 2010  
Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC, 2010  
St. Norbert College, Green Bay, WI, 2009

## **Invited Academic Conferences & Policy Workshops**

Civics in Higher Education: A National Summit, Tufts University, 2026  
Richman Center for Law, Business, and Public Policy, Columbia University, 2025  
Forum on Free Inquiry and Expression, University of Chicago, 2024.  
Afghanistan, Neglected Reality, King's College London, 2024.  
Teaching Civil Discourse, Duke Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, 2024.  
Religion and Diplomacy in the Middle East, University of Haifa, 2024.  
Public Choice Workshop on Constitutional Change, University of Virginia, 2024.  
Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, From Religious Freedom to Religious Responsibility: Building Communities of Advocacy and Action, Doha, Qatar. 2023.  
Columbia University, Center on Capitalism and Society, Re-empowering Human Agency, 2023.  
National Endowment for Democracy, An Alternative Path: Prospects for Federalism in Afghanistan, Washington, DC. 2022.  
Yale University, Department of Political Science, Workshop on Political Ethnography, 2022.  
Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Workshop on Alternative Governance Solutions, 2022. Guatemala City, Guatemala.  
Yale University, Department of Political Science, State Capacity Conference, 2022.  
IDinsight, Symposium: A Research Agenda for Dignity and Development, 2022.  
Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Future of Higher Education in Afghanistan, Istanbul, Turkey. 2022.  
Workshop on Democracy, Human Rights, and Public Administration, Perspectives on Public Management and Governance (Journal), 2022.  
University of Gothenburg, Center for Governance and Local Development Annual Conference. Gothenburg, Sweden, 2022.  
University of Central Florida, Conference on American Foreign Policy and Intelligence, 2022.  
Princeton University, Institute for Transregional Studies, Conference on Civil Conflict and its Aftermath in the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa, 2022.  
Princeton University, Conference on State Building, and International Development, School of Public and International Affairs, 2022.

Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Rondeli Security Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia. 2021.

Hollings Center for International Dialogue (Turkey), US-Afghan Relations: Vision for The Future. 2021.

Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Doha Institute (Qatar), Looking Towards Peace in Afghanistan after US-NATO Withdrawal. 2021.

University of Arizona, Crisis of Capitalism? 2021.

Arizona State University, Conference on Voluntary Governance, 2020.

Conference on Foreign Assistance and Political Development in Fragile States, Pearson Institute for the Study of Violent Conflict, University of Chicago. 2020.

King's College, University College London, Center for the Study of Governance and Society Empirical Cases of Self-Governance. Workshop on Self-Governance, 2019.

Brown University, Political Theory Project. Philosophy, Politics and Austrian Economics, 2019.

University of Gothenburg (Sweden), Program on Governance and Local Development, May 2019.

Government of Uzbekistan, Ministry of Justice, Tashkent Law Spring conference, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, May 2019.

Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Future Directions in Social Science: A Workshop on the Emergence of Problem-based Interdisciplinarity, Arlington, VA. April 2019.

George Mason University, Mercatus Center, Manuscript workshop for Timur Kuran's book, *Freedoms Delayed: The Political Legacies of Islamic Law in the Middle East*, March 2019.

George Mason University, Department of Economics, Book panel: Paul Dragos Aligica, *Public Entrepreneurship, Citizenship, and Self Governance* (2018, Cambridge University Press), January 2019.

University of Gothenburg (Sweden), Program on Governance and Local Development, May 2018.

Columbia University, American Institute for Afghanistan Studies/Hollings Center, Afghanistan: The Next Generation of Scholars. February 2018.

NASPAA NEXT: A Leadership Development Institute for Public Affairs, Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, Washington, DC, September 2017.

Indiana University, Ostrom Workshop on Policy and Political Theory, Informality and Development: A Conference in Honor of Elinor Ostrom. October 2016.

University of Pittsburgh, Katz School of Business. Social and Community Implications of Introducing DC Power, Business of Humanity Project. April 2016.

Stanford University/Chatham House/United States Institute of Peace, State-Strengthening in Afghanistan 2001-2014: Learning from the Past to Inform the Future. Washington, DC. March 2015.

American University of Central Asia. Constructing Authority through Custom and Tradition. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. September 2013.

University of Zurich, Workshop on Ethnic Politics and Electoral Democracy. July 2012.

United Nations Development Program. Conference on Traditional Justice and Development, Bangkok, Thailand. October 2010.

University of Pittsburgh, Ridgway Center for International Security, Conference on Violent Armed Groups, October 2010.

United States Agency for International Development/United States Institute for Peace, Research Workshop on Tribes, States, and Development. September 2010.

## **Workshops and Conferences Organized**

*Future of Development Aid*, University of Pittsburgh, December 2025

*Informal Institutions and Qualitative Field Methods*, University of Pittsburgh, December 2025.

Pittsburgh Global Forum, University of Pittsburgh, August 2026

*The Future of Development Assistance*, research manuscript workshop, University of Pittsburgh, June 2025.

*The Future of Development Assistance*, policy workshop, co-convened with Ideas Without Borders, New York City, May 2025.

*Pittsburgh Principles*, Reading workshop on academic freedom and free expression, University of Pittsburgh, March 2025.

*Myanmar and Southeast Asia: Challenges and Opportunities in Regional Relations*, with Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 2025.

*World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research* annual conference, University of Pittsburgh, September 2024.

*The Future of Myanmar: Local Governance and Pathways to Peace*, University of Pittsburgh, September 2024.

*Overcoming Deep Divisions*. Manuscript Workshop, University of Pittsburgh. February 2023

*University of Pittsburgh: United in Compassion*. Community project conceived after the political Israel-Hamas conflict to foster civil discourse at the University of Pittsburgh. October 2023-present

Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh, October 2023

Navigating Diversity and Pluralism in the Way Ahead: A Conference on Afghanistan with United States Institute of Peace, Hollings Center for International Dialogue, April 2023.

*Coexistence in Pluralist Societies*. Manuscript Workshop. Institute for Humane Studies. May 2021.

*Coexistence in Pluralist Societies*. Discussion Colloquium. Institute for Humane Studies, October 2020.

Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh, October 2018.

*Afghanistan: A Regional Way Forward?* University of Pittsburgh, December 2013.

*The Sustainability of Community Development Councils in Afghanistan*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul, Afghanistan, January 2008.

*Investigating the Sustainability of Community Development Councils in Afghanistan: Research Methodology*, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit Workshop, Kabul, Afghanistan, March 2007.

## **PhD-level Courses Taught**

Qualitative Research Design and Methods

State Building and Political Order

Institutions and Development

Field Seminar in International Development

## **MA-level Courses Taught**

Introduction to Public Administration

Comparative Governance

Political Economy Analysis for Global Affairs

The Political Economy of Central Eurasia: Security, Foreign Policy, and Development

Islam, Politics, and the State

Post-conflict Reconstruction

Global Governance

Capstone Seminar: Marcellus Shale Policy and Governance – Client: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Capstone Seminar: US State Department Diplomacy Lab working with US Embassies on governance issues in Libya and Tajikistan

## **Short Courses**

Universidad Francisco Marroquin (Guatemala), one-week intensive undergraduate course “Traditional Authority in a Modern World.” Course featured lectures as well as field visits in indigenous regions in Guatemala. March 2022.

## **Advising**

### **Dissertation Committees**

#### **Chair**

Kamran Hakiman, SPIA

Hasina Jalal, SPIA

Tim Wood, SPIA

Pengshan Pan: Three Essays on Windfalls, Environment, and Local Political Economy in Central and South Asia, 2024.

Blaire Modic: Property Rights, Corruption, and Courts: Evidence from Costa Rica, 2021.

#### **Committee Member**

Chaymaa Al Hakmi, School of Law (SJD), dissertator

Jeffrey Depp, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, dissertator

Mirzokhid Karshiev, Political Science, University of Helsinki, dissertator

Alekhya Velagapudi, School of Computing and Information, dissertator

Shakhzoda Tuychieva, School of Law (SJD), 2025

Liyang Zhou, Department of Economics, 2025

Mohammad Sulaimani, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2024

Liliana Devia, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2024

Colleen Wood, Department of Political Science, Columbia University, 2022

Dan Bisbee, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2021

Kira Pronin, Department of Political Science, 2021

Mohammad Qadam Shah, University of Washington, School of Law, 2018

Caitlin Corrigan, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2016

Ronald Redondo, Department of Political Science, 2016

Shelley Scherer Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 2015

Hande Sozer, Department of Anthropology, 2012

**Chair: M.A. Thesis (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs)**

- Deborah Sike, 2025.
- Mookie Goodson, 2022.

**Chair: Undergraduate Honors Thesis (B.Phil.)**

- Marjorie Tolsdorf, 2017: The Relationship Between Religiosity of Kazakh Women and Attitudes toward Political, Economic, and Social Factors in Kazakhstan: Received Fulbright Award (Russia).
- Cian Stryker, 2016: Integration and Differentiation within the Russian Diaspora, Received Critical Language Fellowship (Tajikistan).
- Nikolai Condee-Padunov, 2010: Maternal health infrastructure in Afghanistan. Received Fulbright Award (Norway), Presidential Management Fellow.

## **Service**

### **Editorial Board Service**

Building Community, Editorial Advisory Board, University of Toronto Press, 2026-present

Economics and Governance, 2025-present

Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies, 2023-present

Central Asian Survey, 2019-present

### **Service to the Global Community and Profession**

#### **Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland**

Jury Member, Charles Norchi Prize, 2025

#### **American Institute for Afghanistan Studies**

Executive Committee Member (elected), 2023-

#### **Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)**

President (elected), Central Eurasian Studies Society, 2020-2023 (three-year rotating presidency).

Chair, Conference Committee, Tashkent Regional Conference, 2020-2022.

Organizer and Host, CESS Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh, 2018.

Board member (elected), 2017-2019.

Chair, Institutional Linkages Committee, 2016-present.

Conference Committee, 2016-2018.

Best Book Award Committee 2016, 2019, 2020.

Taskforce on Fieldwork Safety, 2015-16.

Best Graduate Paper Award Committee, 2014.

### **American Society for Public Administration**

Section for International and Public Administration

Board member (elected), 2019-2022

Social Media committee, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

SICA Occasional Papers committee, 2019-2020

Riggs Workshop organizing committee, 2019-2021

### **International Studies Association**

Inaugural Board Member, Section on South Asia in World Politics, 2016-2018.

### **World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research**

Annual conference organizer and scientific committee member, 2024

Elinor Ostrom Prize Committee (with Journal of Institutional Economics), 2023, 2026

### **Other Global Service**

Acton Institute, Collins Center for Abrahamic Heritage, Advisory Board Member, 2023-present

PONARS Eurasia, Member, 2019-present.

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Program on Governance and Local Development, University of Gothenburg, 2019-2021.

Board Member, CEDOS (Ukraine), 2019-present.

Independent expert witness (written affidavits and expert witness testimony), in support of applicants seeking political asylum in the United States, 2005-present.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Election Observer, Presidential Elections, Kazakhstan, 2005.

### **University Wide Service**

#### **University-level Committees**

Co-chair, Working Group on Antisemitism, Office of Chancellor, 2024-present

Gift Advisory Committee, 2024-2025

Provost Search Committee, elected faculty representative, 2023-24

Board of Trustees Academic Affairs/Libraries Committee, 2021-present

Senate Council, elected representative, 2020-2022, 2023-2025

Faculty Senate, elected representative, 2019-2022, 2022-2025

Gifts that Sponsor Projects Policy Committee, Office of Provost, 2020-2021

Ad hoc tenure committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2020-2021, 2023-24

UCIS Global Strategy Committee, 2015-16

Ridgway Center for Security Studies, Faculty Steering Committee 2011-2016  
Committee on Information Technology, Office of Provost, 2010-12  
Co-convener, University of Pittsburgh Governance Group, 2011-13  
Hewlett Grant Committee, University Center for International Studies, 2013-14

### **Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh**

Faculty Advisory Board, 2010-2020  
Member, Small Grants Committee, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17  
FLAS Selection Committee Member, 2000-2016.  
Search Committee Member, Post-doctoral Fellow, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2015-6

### **Center for Global Studies, University of Pittsburgh**

Faculty Advisory Board, 2012-2018  
FLAS Selection Committee, Member, 2010-11, 2012-13

## **School-wide Service**

Committee member, Doctoral Studies Committee, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2019-2021  
Founding Co-chair, Technology Committee, 2016-2020  
President, Faculty Assembly, 2017-18 (elected)  
Vice President, Faculty Assembly, 2011-12 (elected)  
Faculty Advisory Committee member, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2017-18 (elected)  
Committee member, Public Administration/Public Policy faculty search, 2017-18  
Review committee, Ridgway Center for Security Studies and Wesley W. Posvar Chair, 2013-14  
Chair, Committee to create Governance and International Public Management major, 2013-14  
Search Committee, International Political Economy faculty search, 2013-14  
Committee Member, Curriculum Review and Evaluation Committee, 2011-12, 2012-13  
Committee Member, Professional Development Fund Committee, 2009-10, 2011-12  
Committee member, Security Studies faculty search, 2009-10

## **Peer Review**

### **Journals**

Afghanistan; Agriculture; American Political Science Review, Asian Politics and Policy; Asian Survey; British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies; Canadian Foreign Policy Journal; Central Asian Survey; Central Asian Affairs; Children and Youth Services Review; Civil Wars; Comparative Politics; Comparative Political Studies; Conflict and Cooperation; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Democratization; European Journal of International Relations; Forest Policy and Economics; Geopolitics, History, and International Relations; Globalizations; Governance; Independent Review; International Organization; International Security; International Studies Perspective; International Studies Quarterly; Journal of Asian Studies; Journal of Peasant Studies; Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice; Journal of South Asian Studies; Journal of Politics; Journal of Institutional Economics; Journal of Communism and Post-Communism; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Nationalism and Ethnic Politics; Political Studies; Post-Soviet Economies;

Problems of Post-Communism; Public Choice; Public Administration Review; Publius; Small Wars and Insurgencies, Social Science Quarterly; Structural Change and Economic Dynamics; Sustainability; Sustainable Development, Territory, Politics, Governance; Third World Quarterly; World Bank Economic Review, World Development; World Politics

### **Book Presses**

CQ Press, Cambridge University Press; Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press, Palgrave MacMillan, Routledge; Rowman and Littlefield; Stanford University Press; University of Notre Dame Press

### **Others**

AidData; Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit; Afghanistan Office of the Chief Executive; Atlantic Council; Institute for Humane Studies, National Science Foundation; Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Rising Tide Foundation; Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; Swiss National Science Foundation; Templeton World Charitable Foundation; John Templeton Foundation; United States Institute for Peace.

### **Professional Training**

Acquisition Assistance Training for Cognizant Technical Officers (Contracting Officers), United States Agency for International Development, Almaty, Kazakhstan. May 2001.

Democracy and Governance Officers Training, United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC. December 2001.

United States Peace Corps, Guliston, Uzbekistan, September-December 1997, Intensive Uzbek Language and Culture, TESOL Methodology, Cross-Cultural Understanding, Community Development, September-December 1997.

### **Short-term Advisory Appointments**

*She Rises Up*, Content advisor for film on role of women in global development. 2024

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Central Asia, 2022-23

US Agency for International Development, Governance Reform in Uzbekistan, 2023

US Department of State, Consultant, Afghanistan Affairs, November 2021

US Department of State, Consultant, Central Asian Affairs, August 2021

World Bank, Social Development: Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice, 2016-2021.

United States Agency for International Development, Justice Reform in Uzbekistan Program, 2018-19.

United States Agency for International Development, Team Leader, Democracy and Governance Strategy Assessment, Kyrgyz Republic, June 2018.

World Bank, Investment Climate Group, 2015-2016.

United States Agency for International Development/Central Asian Mission, Tajikistan, Local Governance Evaluation, 2012-2016.

Leadership Development and Education for Sustained Peace, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, Faculty Mentor, 2011-2014.

United Nations, Afghanistan, Contributor: Common Country Analysis, 2013.

United States Agency for International Development (Democracy International). Afghanistan Governance Strategy Assessment, 2012.

United States Agency for International Development, Africa, and Middle East Bureau (Management Systems International). 2010.

National Security Interest Corporation/Department of Defense, Washington, DC, 2009-2010.

Internews, Kabul, Afghanistan 2005-6.

United Nations Development Program, Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2006.

## **Field Experience**

Afghanistan (three years), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia (one year), Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan (five+ years)

## **Professional Affiliations**

American Political Science Association

Public Choice Society

International Studies Association

American Institute for Afghanistan Studies

Central Eurasian Studies Society (lifetime member)

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (lifetime member)

World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (lifetime member)

## **Research Languages**

English (native)

Russian (working fluency, certified advanced proficiency)

Uzbek (working fluency)

Persian (Tajiki and Dari dialects) (working fluency)

Turkish (basic)