

## CURRENT POSITION

- since 03/2022 **Centre for East European and International Studies**  
Researcher
- Research on extractive infrastructural projects, governance and development in Central Asia and the South Caucasus
  - Principal investigator “China, the EU and policy space for development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia”
- since 03/2022 **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys), Berlin**  
Guest Researcher
- Collaborative research on infrastructures and transformations

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 11/2021–02/2022 **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys) and Department of European Ethnology, Berlin**  
Postdoctoral Researcher
- Advancing interdisciplinary research on “Infra/structures of extrActivism in post/Soviet space” with initial focus on Georgia
  - Scientific coordination and strategic development of ‘Postdoc Academy: Leadership for an Anthropocene World’ (LEAD) together with Leuphana Universität of Lüneburg, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Drift Rotterdam
- 05/2015–10/2021 **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys), Berlin**  
Doctoral Research Fellow
- Transdisciplinary research on development and resource extraction based on in-depth investigation in Kyrgyzstan on mining infrastructures and Chinese investments
  - Exploratory observations in Georgia on infrastructure investments projects and establishing a transdisciplinary network (from 2017 on)
  - Establishment and coordination of ‘Mining Working Group’ – an interdisciplinary collaborative effort
- 04/2018–05/2018 **Arizona State University, Center for Behavior, Institutions and Environment (CBIE), Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, USA**  
Visiting Research Fellow

- Collaborative multi-method research design for analysing dynamics of resource infrastructures (in-depth qualitative inquiry and quantitative economic experiments)
- 10/2012–03/2018 **Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations of the Federation of German Industries**, Berlin  
Project Director
- German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Programme “Mineral Resources for Development in Central Asia” Component: Political Dialogue Platform
  - Steering policy advisory processes within the framework of a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Platform with high-ranking decision-makers from Germany and Central Asia at the science-policy-society interface (in cooperation with GIZ and BGR)
  - Elaboration of policy recommendations with decision-makers for strengthening deliberative processes around natural resource infrastructures
- 01/2012–08/2012 **AFC Consultants International GmbH**, Bonn, Germany (based in Tajikistan)  
Team Leader
- BMZ Programme “Framework and Financing for Private Sector Development in the Republic of Tajikistan”
  - Advising policy-makers, business associations and cooperatives for improving agricultural value chains and energy efficiency (in cooperation with EU technical assistance, EBRD and ADB)
  - Advising financial organisations on tailoring financial products along the agricultural value chain and for energy-efficient infrastructures
- 01/2010–12/2011 **AFC Consultants International GmbH**, Bonn, Germany (based in Tajikistan)  
Business and Organisational Development Advisor
- BMZ Programme “Sustainable Economic Development in the Republic of Tajikistan”
  - Supporting key political partner organisations in implementing national sustainable development goals (in cooperation with UKaid (DFID), UNDP and EBRD)
  - Consulting business associations and cooperatives on the development of advisory services for their members, incl. capacity development of local experts
  - Supporting energy-efficient technology producers in dissemination of their products through micro-finance
  - Development and management of a result-oriented monitoring and evaluation system for the programme and its partner organisations, incl. on-the-job training of partner organisations
- 08/2007–12/2009 **AFC Consultants International GmbH**, Bonn, Germany  
Consultant / Project Manager
- Working with countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and the MENA region in the fields of rural development within the framework of international cooperation, on behalf of the German

- Federal Government, the European Union as well as other multilateral organisations (inter alia BMZ, ADB, WB)
- Project acquisition, management, budget management, backstopping, monitoring and evaluation as well as steering international project teams
- 07/2005–08/2005 **International Labour Organisation of the United Nations (UN-ILO)** Geneva, Switzerland  
Intern
- In the Employment Department under the ILO-INDISCO Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and other Self-Help Organisation
  - Analysis of ILO’s contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through promotion of decent work
- 07/2004–08/2004 **G&G Consulting Ltd. Co.**, Ankara, Turkey  
Project Assistant
- Supporting the implementation of the World Bank project “National Parks and Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Azerbaijan”

## EDUCATION

- 05/2015–02/2022 **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, Germany  
full-time from 04/2018 Dr. phil. in Geography  
Doctoral thesis: “Extractive socio-natures and resistance. The un/making of Kyrgyzstan’s Gold Rush”  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Tobias Krüeger and Prof. Dr. Jörg Niewöhner
- 10/2006–10/2007 **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**, Great Britain  
MSc Development Studies  
Dissertation: „Lesson-drawing in redistributive land reform: What can South Africa learn from Taiwan?”  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Tim Forsyth
- 09/2002–07/2006 **Corvinus University of Budapest**, Hungary  
BA International Economics  
Bachelor thesis: “Understanding rural poverty among indigenous peoples”  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Tamás Szentes
- 09/1999–07/2002 **TED Ankara College Foundation High School**, Turkey  
Bilingual Diploma of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles – peer-reviewed

- 2022. “Making and unmaking gold as a resource. Resistant socio-natures in Maidan, Kyrgyzstan”, with Niewöhner, J. *Geoforum* 131 (May): 151–62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2022.03.015>

- 2021. “Taking the discourse seriously: Rational self-interest and resistance to mining in Kyrgyzstan”, with Krueger, T., Janssen, M. A., Kasymov, U. *Ecological Economics*, 189.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2021.107177>
- 2020. “Shades of conflict in Kyrgyzstan: National actor perceptions and behaviour in mining”, with Krueger, T., Niewöhner, J. *International Journal of the Commons*, 14(1), pp. 191–207.  
<http://doi.org/10.5334/ijc.988>

#### **In preparation**

- “The un/making of a gold rush. Extractive socio-natures and resistance in Kyrgyzstan” (to be submitted to *Extractive Industries and Society*)
- “Beyond the binary framing of institutions: An alternative perspective of rules in the study of social-ecological systems” with Corrie Hannah et al. (to be submitted to *Nature Sustainability Perspective*)
- “Dis/assembling the BRI along the Rikoti pass road in Georgia” with Valentin Krüsmann (to be submitted to *Political Geography*)

#### **Other publications**

- Authoritarian resource nationalism and violence in Central Asia. An interdisciplinary approach (with Vincent Artman) (to be submitted to *OXUS Society for Central Asian Affairs*)
- “Kirgistan: Besetzung von Minen im ganzen Land”, *Novastan*, October 2020 (with Jana Rapp)
- “Fünf Stans auf der Suche”, *Südwind*, May/June Issue 2020 (with Florian Coppenrath, Lukas Dünser, Robin Roth und Julia Tappeiner)

#### **RESEARCH AWARDS**

- Funding from United States Institute of Peace, research-based policy paper for the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs on nationalism and violence (2022) (3000 EUR)
- Funding from the Women’s Promotion Programme, Geography Department of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2021) (300 EUR)
- Elsa-Neumann Early Career Scientist Fellowship of the Federal State of Berlin (2019-2020) (15.000 EUR)
- IRI THESys Travel Award, conference attendance in Lima, Peru, Global IASC Conference (2019) (3000 EUR)
- IRI THESys Travel Award, field research in Kyrgyzstan (2018) (3.500)
- DAAD Fellow, research stay in the USA (2018) (5.000 EUR)
- Member of IRI THESys Graduate Program, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program (2015-2022)
- Best Graduating Student Award, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary (2006) (1000 EUR)
- Best Semester Performance Award, Corvinus University of Budapest (2003 – 2006, seven consecutive semesters) (3.500 EUR)

## SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- 02/2022 ["Das Ende des Goldrausches"](#) based on interview for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.
- 10/2021 ["As it decides the future of the Kumtor gold mine, Kyrgyzstan turns a blind eye to the present"](#) based on interview for *Novastan*.
- 05/2021 ["Shades of Conflict in Kyrgyzstan with Beril Ocaklı"](#). *InCommon Podcast Talk*.
- 05/2021 ["Politics of the Kyrgyz mining sector: An Interview with Beril Ocaklı"](#). *Voices on Central Asia*.
- 03/2021 ["How has extractivism played out in Soviet and post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan?"](#). *The Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) Podcast Talk*.
- 09/2019 ["Economist with a people focus"](#). *Research in Germany*.
- 06/2019 [Mining Story 1: "A question of trust. Mining conflicts in Kyrgyzstan"](#). *IRI THESys Research Portraits*.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

- 03/2022 "Gold rush, exploitation and conflicts. How mining is dividing societies". Curated Tour of the Humboldt Lab Exhibition "After Nature". Berlin, Germany.
- 01/2022 "Extractive Socionature and Resistance in Kyrgystan". Guest lecture, Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) – Research Group "Environmental Justice". Online.
- 01/2022 "Situating global extractivism. Un/making of resource frontiers in the post/Soviet space" EXALT/UniPID Deep Dive – Exploring Political Regimes. Online.
- 01/2022 "Situating global extractivism in the post/Soviet space". Guest lecture on research methods, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Geography Department. Berlin, Germany.
- 11/2021 "Thirty years on: Is there still a post-Soviet space? Transformations in Central Asia". Expert Conference. International Institute for Peace. Vienna, Austria (online).
- 06/2021 "Sampling Socionatures: Multifarious lifeworlds, multiple methods". Geo.X Young Academy, Lecture Series "Social sciences for Natural Scientists". Online.
- 10/2020 "Resisting extractive futures". International Association of Study of the Commons, World Commons Week Keynote. Online.
- 09/2018 "Research methods for studying socio-ecological systems in Central Asia". American University of Central Asia. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (with Ulan Kasymov).
- 04/2018 "Progressing beyond mining as evil: Exploring conflict and cooperation in Kyrgyzstan". Arizona State University. Tempe, Arizona.
- 02/2018 "Knowledge transfer between business, politics and academia in Central Asia: Case of mining infrastructures in Central Asia". Joint Workshop, Central Asian Studies

Inside Out, Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) and Central Asia Seminar of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Berlin, Germany.

- 01/2018 "Mining conflicts in Kyrgyzstan". Ilia State University. Tbilisi, Germany.
- 07/2017 "Mixed Research Methods". HTW Berlin - University of Applied Sciences. Berlin, Germany.

### Conference presentations

- 10/2021 "Taking the discourse seriously: Rational self-interest and resistance to mining in Kyrgyzstan". EXALT Conference, Concurrent Crises and Sustainable Futures: Global Extractivisms and Alternatives. Helsinki, Finland (online).
- 11/2020 "Things that matter in Maidan, Kyrgyzstan: Gold, socionatures and conflict", part of co-organised panel "Neoliberalism & Resource Extraction in Post-Socialist Societies" with Amanda Wooden, Edward Schatz, Gulzat Botoeva and Asel Doolotkeldieva. Association of Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies Annual Conference, Anxiety and Rebellion. Washington, USA (online).
- 07/2020 "Things that matter in Maidan, Kyrgyzstan: Gold, socionatural assemblages and conflict". Humboldt Universität zu Berlin Laboratory: Anthropology of Environment & Human Relations. Berlin, Germany (online).
- 12/2019 "Dictators, scientists, mining: Rethinking cooperation". Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, IRI THESys, Colloquium. Berlin, Germany.
- 07/2019 "Shades of conflict in Kyrgyzstan: National actor perceptions and behaviour in mining". International Association of Study of the Commons Conference, In Defence of the Commons: Challenges, Innovation and Action. Lima, Peru.
- 01/2017 "Role of institutions in conflict and cooperation in Kyrgyz mining sector". Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, IRI THESys, Colloquium. Berlin, Germany.
- 05/2016 "Stakeholder analysis in coupled social-ecological systems: A tool for exploring the role of institutions in conflict and cooperation? Empirical evidence from the mining sector and the commons in Kyrgyzstan". International Association of Study of the Commons Conference, Commons in a Glocal World: Global Connections and Local Responses. Bern, Switzerland.
- 01/2016 "Role of institutions in conflict and cooperation. Empirical evidence from the mining sector and the commons in Kyrgyzstan". Workshop in Institutional Analysis of Social-Ecological Systems (WINS) Central Asian Working Group at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Berlin, Germany.

## PERSONAL SKILLS

### Language skills

|                 |               |         |                    |                   |         |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Mother tongue   | Turkish       |         |                    |                   |         |
| Other languages | UNDERSTANDING |         | SPEAKING           |                   | WRITING |
|                 | Listening     | Reading | Spoken interaction | Spoken production |         |
| German          | C2            | C2      | C2                 | C2                | C2      |
| English         | C2            | C2      | C2                 | C2                | C2      |
| Russian         | C2            | C2      | C2                 | C2                | C1      |
| Spanish         | B2            | B2      | B2                 | B2                | B2      |
| Hungarian       | A2            | A2      | A2                 | A2                | A1      |
| Kyrgyz          | B1            | A2      | B1                 | A2                | A1      |
| Georgian        | A1            | A1      | A1                 | A1                | A1      |
| Arabic          | A1            | A1      | A1                 | A1                | A1      |

### Communication skills

Excellent communication skills and diplomatic aptitude gained through many years of international work experience with high-ranking decision-makers in sensitive contexts

### Organisational/managerial skills

Outstanding organisational and managerial skills acquired through track record of professional experience in international cooperation and advisory services for partner organisations in countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus

### Computer skills

Very good application knowledge of MS Office, high proficiency in qualitative data analysis in NVivo and basic knowledge of quantitative statistical analysis in R and QGIS

## MEMBERSHIPS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| since 04/2019 | Tönissteinerkreis e.V. Network<br>Member<br>Promoting cultural openness and international outlook of young leaders in Germany   |
| since 11/2017 | Novastan e.V. Association<br>Member<br>Board Member between until November 2019<br>Rendering clichés visible about Central Asia and disseminating knowledge about the region through multidisciplinary perspectives in cooperation with scholars, practitioners, journalists, and artists |

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Referee, *Eurasian Geography and Economics; Ecological Economics; Geoforum; Extractive Industries and Society; Near East Policy Forum* at the Australian National University

- Coordinator, Working Group on Global Extractivisms at IRI THESys, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Member, Infrastructures and Transformations Group at IRI THESys, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Member, Laboratory: Anthropology of Environment | Human Relations at the Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Member, Decolonial Reading Group at IRI THESys, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- First elected speaker of early career researchers and founder of the Early Career Network (ECN) of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) (2019-2021)
- Member of the Executive Council, International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) (2019-2021); IASC member
- Member, Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES); Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)

#### **REGIONAL EXPERIENCE IN EURASIA**

- Georgia. Preliminary research and networking for post/doctoral research (May 2017 – October 2020, 6 months)
- Kyrgyzstan. Fieldwork for doctoral research (June 2015 – October 2018, 6 months)
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. Regular work travels for the implementation of the BMZ Programme “Mineral Resources for Development in Central Asia” (October 2012 – March 2018) as well as to Russia (1 week)
- Tajikistan. Development advisor and team leader in BMZ programmes on sustainable economic development (January 2010 – August 2012)
- Romania and Kyrgyzstan. Regular work travels for project backstopping and fact-finding missions (August 2007 – December 2009)
- Hungary. Bachelor’s degree studies (September 2002 – July 2006)
- Kyrgyzstan. School education (September 1996 – July 1998)