

## NATALIE KOCH ✧ CURRICULUM VITAE

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### EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Geography  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

*May 2017 – Present*

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

*August 2012 – May 2017*

### EDUCATION

#### University of Colorado, Boulder (2009-2012)

- Geography, PhD, 2012
- Dissertation: *The city and the steppe: Territory, technologies of government, & Kazakhstan's new capital*

#### University of Colorado, Boulder (2008-2009)

- Geography, MA, 2009
- Thesis: *Nation-building, geopolitics, and the Andijon uprising: Securitizing discourses in Uzbekistan*

#### Dartmouth College (2003-2006)

- Geography; Russian Area Studies, BA, 2006, *Summa Cum Laude*
- Thesis: *Geopolitical discourses and the Aral Sea desiccation: A case study of Kyzylorda oblast'*

#### Harvard University (2007-2008)

- Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, MA program, transferred

### PUBLICATIONS

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Forthcoming* Disorder over the border: Spinning the specter of instability through time and space in Central Asia. *Central Asian Survey*.
- Mosques as monuments: An inter-Asian perspective on monumentality and religious landscapes. *cultural geographies* (with A. Valiyev and H. Khairul).
- 2016 We entrepreneurial academics: Governing globalized higher education in 'illiberal' states. *Territory, Politics, Governance* 4(4): 438-452.
- Is a "critical" area studies possible? *Environment & Planning D* 34 (5): 807-814.
- Banal Nationalism* 20 years on: Re-thinking, re-formulating and re-contextualizing the concept. *Political Geography* 54: 1-6. (with A. Paasi)
- Is nationalism just for nationals? Civic nationalism for non-citizens and celebrating National Day in Qatar and the UAE. *Political Geography* 54: 43-53.
- The "personality cult" problematic: Personalism and mosques memorializing the "father of the nation" in Turkmenistan and the UAE. *Central Asian Affairs* 3(4): 330-359.
- 2015 Urban boosterism in closed contexts: Spectacular urbanization and second-tier mega-events in three Caspian capitals. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 56(5): 575-598 (with A. Valiyev).

- Gulf nationalism and the geopolitics of constructing falconry as a 'heritage sport.' *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 15(3): 522-539.
- Everyday inclusions: Rethinking ethnocracy, *kafala*, and belonging in the Arabian Peninsula. *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 15(3): 540-552 (with N. Vora).
- 'Spatial socialization': Understanding the state effect geographically. *Nordia Geographical Publications* 44(4): 29-35.
- Exploring divergences in cross-regional comparative research: The spectacular cities of Central Asia and the GCC. *Area* 47(4): 436-442.
- The violence of spectacle: Statist schemes to green the desert and constructing Astana and Ashgabat as urban oases. *Social and Cultural Geography* 16(6): 675-697.
- 2014 'Building glass refrigerators in the desert': Discourses of urban sustainability and nation-building in Qatar. *Urban Geography* 35(8): 1118-1139.
- The shifting geopolitics of higher education: Inter/nationalizing elite universities in Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, and beyond. *Geoforum* 56: 46-54.
- Bordering on the modern: Power, practice, and exclusion in Astana. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 39 (3): 432-443.
- 2013 Introduction – Field methods in 'closed contexts': Undertaking research in authoritarian states and places. *Area* 45(4): 390-395.
- Technologizing the opinion: Focus groups, coercion, and performance. *Area* 45(4): 411-418.
- The 'heart' of Eurasia? Kazakhstan's centrally-located capital city. *Central Asian Survey* 32(2): 134-147.
- Kazakhstan's changing geopolitics: The resource economy and popular attitudes about China's growing regional influence. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* (2013): 1-24.
- Sport and soft authoritarian nation-building. *Political Geography* 32: 41-52.
- Why not a world city? Astana, Ankara, and geopolitical scripts in urban networks. *Urban Geography* 34 (1): 109-130.
- 2012 Urban 'utopias': The Disney stigma and discourses of 'false modernity.' *Environment and Planning A* 44(10): 2445-2462.
- 2011 Security and gendered national identity in Uzbekistan. *Gender, Place, and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* 18(4): 499-518.
- 2010 The monumental and the miniature: Imagining 'modernity' in Astana. *Social and Cultural Geography* 11(8): 769-787.
- Interethnic tensions in Kyrgyzstan: A political geographic perspective. *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 51(4): 531-562 (with A. Bond).

## **BOOKS**

- Forthcoming*      *The geopolitics of spectacle: Space, synecdoche, and the new capitals of Asia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- 2017                Koch, N. (ed.) *Critical geographies of sport: Space, power, and sport in global perspective*. New York: Routledge.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

- Forthcoming*      Spectacular authoritarianism: Engineering popular support and the geography of spectacle. In M. Dimitrov (ed.), *Popular authoritarianism: The quest for regime durability*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cars and Gulf nationalism: Interpreting National Day celebrations in Qatar and the UAE. In A. Diener and J. Hagen (eds.), *Narrating the nation through urban space: Politics, culture, and economics in global context*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Urban life in Central Asia. In D. Montgomery (ed.), *Central Asia in Context: A Thematic Introduction to the Region*. Pittsburg, University of Pittsburgh Press.
- 2017                Introduction: Critical geographies of sport in global perspective. In N. Koch (ed.) *Critical geographies of sport: Space, power, and sport in global perspective*. New York: Routledge, p. 1-11.
- Athletic autocrats: Understanding images of authoritarian leaders as sportsmen. In N. Koch (ed.) *Critical geographies of sport: Space, power, and sport in global perspective*. New York: Routledge, p. 91-107.
- Conclusion: Toward a critical geography of sport: Space, power, and social justice. In N. Koch (ed.) *Critical geographies of sport: Space, power, and sport in global perspective*. New York: Routledge, p. 237-252 (with D. Jansson).
- 2016                Cowboys, gangsters, and rural bumpkins: Constructing the ‘other’ in Kazakhstan’s ‘Texas.’ In M. Laruelle (ed.), *Kazakhstan in the Making: Legitimacy, Symbols, and Social Changes*. Lanham: Lexington Books (with K. White), p. 181-207.
- 2015                Domesticating elite education: Raising patriots and educating Kazakhstan’s future. In M. Ayooob and M. Ismayilov (eds.), *Identity and Foreign Policy in Central Eurasia*. New York: Routledge, p. 82-100.
- 2009                Ivy League and geography in the US. In R. Kitchen and N. Thrift (Eds.) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. Oxford: Elsevier. Volume 5: 616-621 (with R. Wright).

## **REVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, AND POLICY MEMOS**

- 2017                Orientalizing authoritarianism: Narrating US exceptionalism in popular reactions to the Trump election and presidency. *Political Geography* 58: 145-147.
- Geopower and geopolitics in, of, and for the Middle East. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49(2): 315-318.
- Book review: Benjamin Smith, *Market Orientalism: Cultural Economy and the Arab Gulf States*. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49(1): 195-197.

- 2016 Restructuring extractive economies in the Caspian basin: Too little, too late? *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo #441* (with A. Valiyev). Reprinted on *RBC Daily* at: <http://www.rbc.ru/opinions/politics/23/12/2016/585cd55e9a7947598745ccaa>
- La fauconnerie, un ‘sport-héritage’ dans la péninsule arabique [Falconry as a ‘heritage sport’ in the Arabian Peninsula]. *Conflits : Revue de géopolitique* 10: 60-61.
- Why no ‘water wars’ in Central Asia? Lessons learned from the Aral Sea disaster. *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo #410*.
- Spatializing everyday anthropology: A response to Svetlana Peshkova’s *Women, Islam, and Identity: Public Life in Private Spaces in Uzbekistan*. *Central Asian Affairs* 3(1): 84-87.
- 2015 The Sochi syndrome afoot in Central Asia: Spectacle and speculative building in Baku, Astana, and Ashgabat. *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo #371*. Reprinted on openDemocracy at: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/anar-valiyev-natalie-koch/sochi-syndrome> (with A. Valiyev).
- 2014 *The Birth of Territory*: Should political geographers do conceptual history? *Dialogues in Human Geography* 4(3): 348-351.
- Book review: *Ethnographies of the state in Central Asia: Performing politics*. *Central Asian Survey* 33(4): 566-568.
- Grounding Central Asian geopolitics. *Geopolitics* 19(1): 227–233.
- Book review: *Globalizing Central Asia: Geopolitics and the challenges of economic development*. *Central Asian Survey* 33(1): 115-116.
- Reading John Agnew and Luca Muscarà's *Making Political Geography*. *Political Geography* 38: 46-56 (with V. Mamadouh, E. dell'Agnese, T. Yamazaki, C. Flint, L. Muscarà, and J. Agnew)
- 2013 Technologizing complacency: Spectacle, structural violence, and ‘living normally’ in a resource-rich state, *Political Geography* 37: A1-A2.
- 2009 Book review: *Palgrave concise historical atlas of Central Asia*. *Central Asian Survey* 28(3): 335-336.

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

- 2017 Sporting cities of the Arabian Peninsula: Geopolitical encounters beyond the state. Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. April 5.
- Is nationalism just for nationals? Civic nationalism for non-citizens and celebrating National Day in Qatar and the UAE. Poster presented at the Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA. April 4.
- 2016 Restructuring extractive economies in the Caspian basin: Too little, too late? Policy memo presented at the PONARS Eurasia Policy Conference, George Washington University, Washington, DC. September 23. (with A. Valiyev)

De-bordering the region: Inter-Asian urban geographies and rethinking 'Central Asia.' Invited lecture at 'Bordered: Conceptualizing Eurasia,' a conference of the Russian and Eurasian Studies Program, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. April 8.

Is nationalism just for nationals? Civic nationalism for non-citizens and celebrating National Day in Qatar and the UAE. Paper presented at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. March 29.

Mosques as monuments: Memorializing the 'father of the nation' in Turkmenistan and the UAE. Invited paper at 'Religion-Branding? Central Asia's Integration into the International Scene through Religion,' Central Eurasia-Religion in International Affairs series, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC. January 27.

2015 Is a 'critical' regional studies possible? Invited paper at workshop 'Area Studies & Geography: Reformatting the relationship,' National University of Singapore, Singapore. December 10.

Urban boosterism in closed contexts: The 'magical state' and spectacular urbanization in three Caspian capitals. Invited lecture at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. November 4.

Contaminated homelands: Power, place, & environmental geopolitics in Kazakhstan's hinterlands. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, Washington, DC. October 17.

Why there were no water wars: Water cooperation in Central Asia and lessons from the Aral Sea disaster. Policy memo presented at the PONARS Eurasia Policy Conference, George Washington University, Washington, DC. September 18.

Spectacular authoritarianism: Engineering popular support and the geography of spectacle. Paper presented at the Richard C. Holbrooke Forum for the Study of Diplomacy and Governance Statecraft in the 21st Century, 'Authoritarianism in a Global Context,' at the American Academy in Berlin, Germany. June 25.

The Sochi syndrome afoot in Central Asia: Spectacle and speculative building In Baku, Astana and Ashgabat. PONARS Eurasia Workshop on Security and Regional Integration in Eurasia, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan. June 16. (with A. Valiyev)

Luxury sports and Gulf nationalism: Falconry in the United Arab Emirates. Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. April 23.

We entrepreneurial academics: Creating spatial hierarchies and interpreting diasporic academics' motives to work at Gulf Arab institutes of higher education. Paper presented at the Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. April 20.

Re-imagining 'post-Soviet' Central Asia: The role of the GCC and articulating geopolitical identities through capital cities. Invited lecture at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 26.

Missionaries of (neo)liberalism? The ideals and affinities of foreign scholars at Gulf Arab institutes of higher education. Invited paper at American University of Kuwait, 2nd Gulf Studies Symposium, 'Knowledge-based Development in the Gulf.' Kuwait City, Kuwait, March 14.

Missionaries of (neo)liberalism? The ideals and affinities of foreign scholars at Gulf Arab institutes of higher education. Invited paper at American University of Sharjah, Symposium on the Global University, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, March 9.

Articulating regional identities through capital cities: Re-imagining “post-Soviet” Central Asia in three Caspian capitals. Paper presented at International Studies Association 56th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, February 19.

- 2014 ‘Building glass refrigerators in the desert’: Urban sustainability and nationalism in Qatar. Paper presented at the Middle Eastern Studies Conference, Washington, DC. November 25.

Re-imagining ‘post-Soviet’ Central Asia: The role of the GCC and articulating geopolitical identities through capital cities. Invited lecture at the Central Asia Program Seminar, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC. November 21.

Post-communist memory and the Soviet legacy in Central Asia. Invited lecture at GeoSpectives Lecture Series, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, October 27.

‘Cowboys,’ ‘hooligans,’ and ‘country bumpkins’: Constructing the ‘other’ in Kazakhstan’s ‘Texas.’ Presented at Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Meeting, New York, NY, October 25.

Post-Soviet garden cities: ‘Building nature’ and constructing Astana and Ashgabat as urban oases. Paper presented at the IGU Commission on Political Geography regional conference, ‘Political Geography and the Environment.’ Eugene, OR. June 20.

‘Cowboys,’ ‘hooligans,’ and ‘country bumpkins’: Constructing the ‘other’ in Kazakhstan’s ‘Texas.’ Invited paper at ‘Kazakhstan beyond economic success: Exploring social and cultural changes in Eurasia,’ conference of The George Washington University’s Central Asia Program, the Uppsala University Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Uppsala, Sweden. June 13.

Kazakhstan’s ‘Texas’: Everyday bordering and constructing the ‘other within.’ Presented at the Association of Borderland Studies Annual Conference, Joensuu, Finland. June 9. (with Kristopher White, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan)

The geopolitics of bread and circuses: Spectacular power and state-making in Central Asia. Invited lecture at the Aleksanteri Institute seminar ‘Central Asia today: Geopolitics, economic relations and political culture,’ Helsinki, Finland. May 16.

The shifting geopolitics of higher education in the GCC: ‘Domesticating’ elite universities & producing ‘knowledge economies.’ Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL. April 8.

Spectacle and the city: The geopolitics of bread and circuses in Central Asia. Invited lecture at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. April 4.

Spectacular Capital Cities of the Persian Gulf and Central Eurasia. University of Arizona Geography Department Colloquium, Tucson, AZ. March 11.

Spectacular capital cities: The geopolitics of bread and circuses in the Persian Gulf and Central Asia. Entanglements: Theorizing Contemporary Architecture and Urbanization, Symposium of the Syracuse University School of Architecture, Syracuse, NY. March 1.

- 2013 Technostates of the GCC and Central Asia: Postneoliberalism and ‘domesticating’ elite higher education. Paper presented at the Social Sciences Research Council International Conference on Inter-Asian Connections IV, Istanbul, Turkey. October 3.

Spectator citizenship: Sport and nationalism in Kazakhstan. Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. April 13.

Authors-meet-critics: 'Making Political Geography.' Panelist at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. April 12.

Synecdoche & the city: The spectacular capitals of the Caspian. Paper presented at the Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. April 8.

Plenary panel: Current controversies and future directions in political geography. Panelist at the Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. April 8.

## **ADVISING, TEACHING, & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **GRADUATE ADVISING**

- Jesse Quinn, PhD, Geography (*since Fall 2013*), dissertation working title: "Precious Earth: Gold Mining, Territory, and Environmental Geopolitics in the Republic of Georgia"
- Sohrob Aslamy, MA, Geography (*since Fall 2016*), thesis working title: "Redefining 'the border between two worlds': The transformation of hydrosocial territories along the Panj River in the Pamir Mountains"

**Current Committees:** Katie McDonald, Kelsey Carlson, Miguel Contreras Alonso, Jared Van Ramshorst (Geography); Shaundel Sanchez (Anthropology); John Wolohan (Social Sciences)

### **COURSES**

GEO 105, World Urban Geography	GEO 610, Geographic Qualitative Methods
GEO 372, Political Geography	GEO 672, Geopolitics and the State
GEO 400, Authoritarianism	GEO 810, Political Geography Seminar
GEO 400, Geography of the Middle East	

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies (AGAPS)
- Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)
- Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)
- Program on New Approaches to Research & Security in Eurasia (PONARS)

### **CURRENT DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, & DISCIPLINARY SERVICE**

*Spring 2017-*     **Editorial Board Member**, *GeoJournal*

*Spring 2017-*     **Faculty Advisor**, Central Asia and the Caucasus Research Group, The Maxwell School

*April 2017-*     **President Emeritus**, AAG Political Geography Specialty Group Board

*Fall 2015-*     **Undergraduate Committee**, Department of Geography, Syracuse University

*Fall 2013-*     **Faculty Advisor**, Syracuse University Cycling Club

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS**

### **POST-DOCTORAL**

- 2017 Pre-proposal Research Grant, Department of Geography, Syracuse University (\$2500)
- 2016 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Award for Outstanding Teaching, Research and Service (SU Maxwell School)
- 2016 Meredith Professors' Teaching Recognition Award (Syracuse University)
- 2015 SU Office of Sponsored Programs Small Grants Competition (\$8000)
- 2015 Fulbright Core Faculty Teaching Fellowship in Azerbaijan, US State Department (*declined*)
- 2015 NSF Catalyzing New International Collaborations (\$10,899)
- 2014 Political Geography Specialty Group Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award (AAG)
- 2014 Appleby-Mosher / Wasylenko Faculty Research Grant, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University (\$600)
- 2014 Central Asia Fellowship, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki (€2600)
- 2013 SSRC Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research (\$31,000)
- 2013 Pre-proposal Research Grant, Department of Geography, Syracuse University (\$2500)
- 2012 Appleby-Mosher Fund for Research Grant, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University (\$1200)

### **PRE-DOCTORAL**

- 2012 Political Geography Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Award, 1st Place (AAG)
- 2012 Urban Geography Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Award, 1st Place (AAG)
- 2011 NSF and Academy of Finland Nordic Research Opportunity at University of Oulu (\$5000)
- 2010 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$12,000)
- 2010 Millar Graduate Student Prize, 1st Place (Nat'l Council for East European & Eurasian Research)
- 2010 Russian & Eurasian Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Award, 1st Place (AAG)
- 2010 Graduate Student Affinity Group Paper Award, 1st Place (AAG)
- 2009 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient (\$30,000/year + tuition for 3 years)
- 2009 IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program (\$8000)
- 2008 Geography Department Fellowship Award (University of Colorado, Boulder)
- 2007 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Russian (Harvard)
- 2007 Davis Center for Russian & Eurasian Studies Fainsod Prize (Harvard)
- 2006 Richard D. Lombard Public Service Fellowship for 6-month internship in Sofia (Dartmouth)
- 2006 Graduated in 3 years Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa (Dartmouth)
- 2006 Presidential Scholar with Distinction for completion of Honors program (Dartmouth)
- 2006 High Honors awarded for Senior Thesis in Geography (Dartmouth)
- 2006 George Perkins Marsh Award in Geography (Dartmouth)
- 2006 IIE Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad in Prague, Czech Republic (Dartmouth)
- 2005 Dean of Faculty Waterhouse Research Award for international research, Dartmouth (\$2000)
- 2005 Dickey Center for International Understanding Research Grant, Dartmouth (\$7000)
- 2005 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant, Dartmouth College (\$2000)
- 2004-6 Rufus Choate Scholar for ranking in top 5% of class (Dartmouth)