

Biographies

Zhyldyz Bakirova is deputy director of the Republican Center of Narcology in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and PhD student at Bishkek State University named after Karasayev. She is a psychiatrist by training and participated in a number of international research projects, including the CADAP annual report and the study “Needs and gaps in treatment and rehabilitation for people who use drugs in selected countries of EECA”. Zhyldyz is an expert of the National Group of developers and pilots of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) quality assurance tools and has published articles on opioid overdose prevention and drug rehabilitation programmes in the Kyrgyz Republic. Her research interests include social work in the treatment continuum, drug treatment and psychoactive substances.

Alla Bessonova is the chairwoman of the Eurasian Women’s AIDS Network and a Master student at the Faculty of Psychology at Bishkek State University named after Karasayev. She has participated in a number of gender research projects, including the women-led gender assessment “How countries address barriers to HIV services for women living with HIV, sex workers and women who use drugs”. Alla is an expert in the regional drug policy group of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA). Her professional interests include advocating for the use and application of scientific approaches in drug treatment and working with people who use drugs.

Azizbek Boltaev, M.D., is a psychiatrist with 20 years of clinical and research experience in the field of addiction medicine, mental health and HIV. Azizbek Boltaev holds a position as director of the Human Research and Development Center in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. He participated in the development and management of programs aimed at treating people who use drugs in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. As an advisor to UKAID and PEPFAR-funded programs, he was actively engaged in the initiation and scaling-up of opioid substitution therapy in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Dr. Boltaev served as technical expert for various international bodies including the UN Theme Group on injecting drug use (Austria), the Steering Committee of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRA) (Lithuania), the Technical Review Panel of the Global Fund to fight AIDS,

Tuberculosis and Malaria (Switzerland). He regularly consults the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Azizbek Boltaev continues his daily clinical practice in Bukhara and sees patients with mental and substance use disorders.

Daniel Deimel is a social worker (Dipl.), addiction therapist (M.Sc.), health scientist (PhD), supervisor at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Supervision und Coaching e.V. (DGsv) and Research Professor of Health Promotion and Prevention at the Technische Hochschule Nuremberg, University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences. He is also a visiting researcher at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Medical Faculty and LVR-Hospital Essen, Department of Addictive Behavior and Addiction Medicine. His work focuses on HIV and addiction research in the social sciences, project development and evaluation expertise, particularly in health promotion for vulnerable and marginalized groups, drug and HIV/AIDS services and evidence-based social work. He is part of the ESCAPE drug analysis project of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and a member of the Correlation European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN).

Jiang Du is a psychiatrist and research professor at the Shanghai Mental Health Centre. She holds a PhD and serves as a supervisor for doctoral and master students. Jiang Du has been engaged in basic and clinical research related to addiction for over ten years. She has been working on the assessment and clinical intervention of high-risk behaviors related to drugs for a long time, as well as on the research regarding the biological mechanisms of brain cognitive function changes caused by synthetic drugs. She has accumulated rich experience in the field of addiction research and evaluation. From 2007 to 2008, and in 2013, she received funding from the National Institutes of Health to visit and study at the University of California, Los Angeles. She studied under the guidance of professor Hser Yih-ing and was engaged in a long-term follow-up research and related statistical analysis of substance addiction patients.

Tynchtyk Estebes Uulu is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology and Political and Legal Disciplines of the Faculty of Social Psychology at Bishkek State University. He received a master's degree from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, majoring in "Politics and Security (Central Asia)". His

current research focuses on social work, NGOs, the probation system, drug addiction, drug trafficking and sustainable development.

Meryem Grabski is a postdoctoral researcher at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. She completed her PhD on the role of craving in tobacco addiction and potential treatments for it at the University of Bristol in 2018. Before joining the SOLID project, she worked as a research associate at University College London and the University of Exeter in the UK. Here, she worked on a survey-based study investigating the substance use of young Europeans in the nightlife scene as well as a clinical trial investigating the effectiveness of ketamine as a treatment for problematic alcohol use. Her research interests include drug use and addiction as well as the investigation of novel treatment methods. She has been using different research methods to this end such as eye-tracking, pharmacological manipulations, online surveys and data collection using mobile phones (ecological momentary assessments).

Sandugash Ismagulova is a social work specialist in Kyzylorda city polyclinic No. 6. She is also a branch manager at the National Alliance of Professional Social Workers of Kazakhstan, for the city of Kyzylorda and Kyzylorda region.

Medet Kudabekov is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology and Social Work of the Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilyov in Astana, Kazakhstan. His main research interests include the professionalization of social work in the framework of the modernization of the social service system.

Ingo Ilja Michels, PhD, is sociologist and advisor for treatment of drug dependence. Since 2010, he was Project Leader of the EU Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP), since 2020 he is the International Scientific Coordinator of the SOLID project at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. He worked in a psychiatric clinic with drug dependent heroin users, as Head of the Drugs and Prison projects department of the German AIDS-Hilfe in Berlin, as Drug Commissioner of the Federal State of Bremen in northern Germany, and as Head of the Office of the Federal Drug Commissioner within the Federal Ministry of Health in Berlin. He is freelance advisor for drug services in PR China in Beijing and Shanghai and Guest Professor at the Department of Sociology/Social Work of the East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), Shanghai.

He is author of several articles on prevention and treatment of drug dependents and on drug policy in International Journals on Substance Use.

Dalida Mukasheva is PhD student at the Department of Sociology and Social work of the Eurasian National University, named after L. Gumilyov. Her main research topics include health and social welfare in prisons, the situation of women with HIV and the professional roles of social workers. Before joining the SOLID Project, Dalida worked for development agencies in Kazakhstan. She has experience in education, science and research, and is member of the National Alliance of Professional Social Workers of Kazakhstan.

Nurgul Musaeva, PhD, is Associate Professor of Psychology at the Bishkek State University named after Karasayev. She holds a PhD in Social Philosophy. She is member of the Association of Social Workers of the Kyrgyz Republic and one of the developers of the State Educational Standards in the direction of “Social Work” and “Psychology” at Master’s and Bachelor’s level. Since 2020, she is National Scientific Coordinator of the SOLID Exceed SOLID project Kyrgyzstan, which is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). She is the author of more than 30 scientific articles, three books devoted to the philosophy of social work, the development of psychological thoughts among the Kyrgyz people and social psychology. Currently, she is studying the issues of training specialists to work with vulnerable population groups such as people living with HIV, people in prison and people using drugs.

Sona Orbelyan is Programme Manager for HIV and TB Programme at UNDP Tajikistan. She has been working as public health practitioner in programs and projects in HIV and TB with different donors and development partners in EECA region for 20 years. Her education background includes a Master’s Degree in Public Health from the State University of New York (USA) and a Medical Degree from Yerevan State Medical University named after Mkhitar Heratsi (Armenia) with a specialization in Preventive Medicine. Ms. Orbelyan’s research interests include HIV epidemiology, harm reduction and operational research.

Ulla Pape, PhD, is professor pro tempore for Comparative Political Science at the University of Greifswald and postdoc in the SOLID Project at the Institute of Addiction Research of the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt am Main. She holds a PhD in International Relations and Inter-

national Organization from the University of Groningen. Before joining the SOLID project in 2022, Ulla was research associate at Freie Universität Berlin, University of Bremen, Radboud University Nijmegen, and Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Her research interests include international health and social policy, welfare state development and civil society in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ulla has published a book *The Politics of HIV/Aids in Russia* (2014) and several articles in international journals such as *Europe-Asia Studies*, the *Journal of Civil Society*, the *International Journal for Sociology and Social Policy*, and *Voluntas*. In the SOLID project, Ulla is responsible for the research on social work in the prisons and social work and infectious diseases (HIV, HCV and tuberculosis). Furthermore, she focuses on the participation with civil society actors in developing social work in Central Asia. In addition, Ulla is member of the editorial board of *Voluntas* and associate lecturer at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Tatsiana Pikirenia has a background in international relations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). She is a dedicated and results-driven professional with over a decade of experience in leading and managing comprehensive initiatives in the public health and human rights sectors. She has created and supervised several project teams that implemented HIV-focused initiatives, including advocacy campaigns, community support, and capacity development programmes. She is an expert in strategic planning, team coordination, and programme implementation and also skilled in financial management, fundraising, and building partnerships, with a strong commitment to non-profit values and empathy.

Uladzimir Pikirenia, PhD, is a psychiatrist and researcher, currently serving as a Postdoc fellow in the SOLID project at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. He is also the head of the department at the psychiatric clinic “Inson” in Uzbekistan. Dr. Pikirenia’s journey in psychiatry began with his graduation from Belarusian State Medical University in 2010, where he later served as an assistant and then associate professor at the Psychiatry and Medical Psychology department. His career spans over a decade of dedicated service in various capacities, including working at the Minsk City Clinical Narcological Centre and as an expert in Opioid Agonist Treatment at the NGO “Positive Movement”. Dr. Pikirenia’s expertise extends to international collaborations, having worked with UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP, UNODC, Doctors Without Borders and other notable organizations. He has contributed significantly to the field through scientific articles in peer-

reviewed journals. His work focuses on social work with people living with HIV, substance use disorders, and harm reduction programs. He is deeply committed to improving mental health care and advocating for equitable access to healthcare. For correspondence: pikireniauladzimir@gmail.com

Mariya Prilutskaya, PhD, is a postdoc at the SOLID Project (Kazakhstan) and a research assistant at Semey Medical University (Pavlodar, Kazakhstan). She graduated from Astana Medical University in 2008 and has worked as a psychiatrist for ten years. The sphere of her professional interests is drug addiction. In the last seven years, she has focused on the problems of novel psychoactive substances in clinical practice of Kazakhstani doctors. Mariya Prilutskaya studies the epidemiological and clinical aspects of drug addictions caused by synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones in Kazakhstan. She is a member of International Society for the Study of Emergent Drugs and International Society of Substance Use Professionals. She participated in development of national clinical standards for management of addictions caused by novel psychoactive substances. Her research activities have been supported by CADAP and UNODC.

Safarkhon Sattorov is the Director of the Republican AIDS Center (Tajikistan) and has more than 15 years of experience on different positions at the Ministry of Health and the Republican AIDS Center. He received his master's degree from the Infectious Disease Department of the Avicenna Tajik State Medical University in 2008. Mr. Sattorov's research interests include public health, HIV, and epidemiology.

Jarkyn Shadymanova, PhD, is an associate professor at Bishkek State University and American University of Central Asia. She holds a PhD degree in Sociology. Her research interests include qualitative and quantitative research methods, social work, sociology of deviation, sustainable consumption issues, and gender studies. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the Sociology Consumption and Household Group, Wageningen University and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. Jarkyn is an author and co-author of numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters on social issues. Jarkyn received several fellowship grants such as The Global Dialogues and Women's Empowerment in Eurasian Contexts Feminist Mentoring (WEF) Fellowship, IGS, LMH, Oxford University, 2018. 'Gendering the Youth: Representations of Gender in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan Media' Junior Fellowship Central Asia Research

and Training Initiative, OSI, 2006–2008. Her research interests focus on sociology, gender studies and the role of NGOs in drug treatment.

Alijon Soliev is a graduate of the Avicenna Tajik State Medical University and has been working as Deputy Director of the Republican AIDS Center (Tajikistan) since 2019. His research interests include HIV, viral hepatitis and size estimations of the key populations. Mr. Soliev has more than 15 years of experience in the implementation of projects in the areas of HIV and TB.

Larissa Steimle is a social worker currently working as a research assistant at the Institute of Addiction Research at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Furthermore, she is completing her doctorate on the topic of professional, supportive relationships in the context of crisis interventions. As a social worker, she worked with people with mental illnesses for five years. Her main areas of research include topics related to mental illnesses and addiction, professional social work and harm reduction.

Heino Stöver, PhD, is a social scientist and Professor of Social Scientific Addiction Research, Faculty of Health and Social Work at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt, Germany. Since 2020 he is the project director of the DAAD project “Social work and strengthening NGOs in development cooperation to treat drug addiction” (SOLID) at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Since 1987, he is director of the Archive and Documentation Centre for Drug Literature and Research at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (www.archido.info/), and the “Institute of Addiction Research of the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt”. The main fields of his research and project development expertise are health promotion for vulnerable groups, drug services, prisons, and related health issues (especially HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and drug dependence). He has been a consultant for the European Commission, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), WHO, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Open Society Institute (OSI) in various contexts. He has published several articles in international journals and books on preventing and treating infectious diseases adequately (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, STIs, and TB), opioid substitution programs, and drug treatment in general.

Hang Su, PhD, is a postdoc researcher at Shanghai Mental Health Center, majoring in psychiatry and mental health. Since 2011, he has been engaged in basic and clinical research of drug dependence and substance addiction, and obtained knowledge about addiction medicine, psychology, epidemiology and sociology. Most of the time, he communicates with substance users in drug rehabilitation institutions and rehabilitation communities to understand their physical, mental state and social needs. At present, he is doing research focusing on the treatment of amphetamine-type stimulants and opioids addiction from several aspects: behavior, electrophysiology, molecular biology, neuroimaging, etc.

Umed Talbov is the head of the Dispensary Department at the Republican AIDS Center (Tajikistan). He has been working on HIV and infectious diseases for about 20 years. He has a Medical Degree from Avicenna Tajik State Medical University. Mr. Talbov's research interests include HIV, HIV/TB and HIV/HBV/HCV coinfections, as well as psychological support to PLWH.

Asel Tentigenova is a senior lecturer at the Department of Social Work and Practical Psychology at Bishkek State University named after Karasaev. She holds degrees in social work and psychology. She is a PhD student in psychology, and is writing a dissertation on the professional burnout of social workers. Her scientific and professional interests are related to the psychology of social work and the psychological counseling for people in difficult life situations. Asel has published more than 10 scientific papers and teaching aids. She is also an expert and consultant in projects to strengthen the professional potential of social pedagogues, school psychologists, responsible for home visits and socio-psychological contacts with families and children.

Mykyta Trofymenko is HIV Project Coordinator at UNDP Tajikistan. He has a Master of Laws Degree from National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv and currently works on a master thesis in public health at the University of Belgrade. In 2017–2018 he was a scholar-in-residence at the American University Washington College of Law. Mr. Trofymenko has nine years of experience in implementation of the projects in the healthcare area in EECA region and his research interests are focused on access to medical treatment.

Yifan Xu holds a Bachelor degree from Colorado State University, and currently serves as a research assistant in the Addiction Medicine Research Group at Shanghai Mental Health Center. Proficient in assessments, cognitive evaluations, and utilizing EEG and near-infrared methods for data collection, she has played a pivotal role in shaping addiction outpatient MDT services. Beyond this, her involvement in designing training courses and tackling various research responsibilities not only emphasizes dedication but also signifies a proactive contribution to advancing the field of addiction medicine.

Dinara Yessimova, PhD, is lecturer at the Department of Sociology of the Eurasian National University and executive director of the National Alliance of Kazakhstan's Professional Social Workers. To train competitive specialists, Yessimova Dinara pays attention to replenishing educational and methodological materials. Dinara has played an important role in the development and promotion of social work in Kazakhstan. She advises UN agencies in Kazakhstan on projects related to maternal and infant mortality, children's rights, and the development of social work in the health and justice systems.

Guzalkhon Zakhidova is a Phd student at Bukhara State Medical Institute and a psychotherapist at the City Psychoneurological Dispensary in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Guzalkhon Zakhidova is a graduate from the Andizhan State Medical Institute. She has a degree in neurology, psychiatry, narcology and psychotherapy. With the SOLID project's support, Dr. Zakhidova is working on a PhD project on psychosocial interventions for users of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

