



*The Center for New Institutional Social Sciences  
and  
The GWB School of Social Work*  
present

**Socioeconomic and Political Challenges in the Middle  
East and Central and East Asia**

**May 27–28, 2004**

**Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

**Thursday, May 27, 2004**

**Goldfarb Faculty Conference Room**

**Goldfarb Hall, Washington University Campus**

**How to Understand and Design Legal, Economic, Political and Social Reform  
and Transformation**

11:00-11:30 a.m.                      **Coffee and Introductions**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.              **Opening Presentation**  
Itai Sened (Director, CNISS)  
Gautam N. Yadama (Director of International Programs,  
GWB School of Social Work)

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.                    **Lunch**

**Socioeconomic Political Challenges in Central And East Asia**

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.                    **The Difficulty of Applying the Standard Concept of the  
‘Market Failure’ to the Formerly Communist Countries:  
Observation from the Kyrgyz Republic**  
Maks Kobonbaev (University of Missouri-St. Louis-USA)

- 2:45 – 3:30 p.m.                    **Contemporary Social, Economic and Political Challenges in Mongolia: Potential Solutions and Barriers**  
Sodnom Ganbold (Trade and Economics Counselor, Embassy of Mongolia, Washington, DC)
- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m.                    **Coffee Break**
- 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.                    **Problems and Perspectives of Decentralization in Kyrgyzstan.**  
Askat Dukenbaev (Co-Chair, Department of International and Comparative Politics, American University in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
- 6:30 p.m.                                **Reception and Dinner**  
Whittemore House, Washington University Campus  
6440 Forsyth Boulevard  
Clayton, MO 63105  
Tel (314) 935-5210

**Friday, May 28, 2004**  
**Goldfarb Faculty Conference Room**  
**Goldfarb Hall, Washington University Campus**

- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.                    **Breakfast**

**Legal Reform and Land Decentralization in Israel**

- 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.                    **Political Entrepreneurs and Dynamics of Institutional Change: Conceptual Framework and Analysis of Case Studies in Israel**  
Assaf Meydani (Ben-Gurion University-Israel)
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.                    **The Paradoxical Role of Interest groups in Shaping Israel's Public Land Policy**  
Ravit Hananel (Tehnon-Israell Institute of Technology-Israel)
- 11:00-11:15 a.m.                    **Coffee Break**

**Socioeconomic Political Challenges in Central Asia**

- 11:15 a.m. –12:00 noon                    **Kyrgyzstan – Emerging Challenges for Democratic and Sustainable Development**  
Medet Tulegenov (Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan)
- 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.                    **Lunch**

## **Challenges of Decentralization and Legal Reform in Tajikistan**

- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.                    **TBA**  
Shakarbek Niyatbekov (Open Society Institute-Tajikistan)
- 2:15 – 3:00 p.m.                    **TBA**  
Nargis Valamat-zade (Open Society Institute-Tajikistan)
- 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.                    **Coffee Break**
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.                    **Way Forward: Policy and Research Collaborations**
- 6:00 p.m.                              **Depart for Dinner and Opera at Opera Theatre of St. Louis**  
**“Carmen” production**

Workshop location:

Goldfarb Faculty Conference Room, Goldfarb Hall  
Washington University in St. Louis  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
USA  
Tel: 314-935-5068 (Alana Bame, CNISS Coordinator)  
Fax: 314-935-5688