

## Understanding Asia: Ideas, Democracy, and Rights

# Understanding Civil Society in Kyrgyzstan: the impacts of local, national and international dynamics



(Scan for registration)

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This presentation delves into the vibrant non-profit sector of Kyrgyzstan, the most dynamic in Central Asia, to offer a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted influences shaping its civil society over the last two decades. It critically examines the impact of local, national, and international dynamics on the development trajectory of Kyrgyz civil society, emphasizing unique forms of civic engagement prevalent within the country's non-profit sector. The talk highlights the strategies civil society organizations have employed to navigate their vulnerabilities. It also assesses the role of European Union (EU) funding in bolstering civil society. In particular, by investigating the processes of adaptation, reinterpretation, and contestation, the presentation illuminates how local organizations assert their ownership and agenda in the face of external support and challenges. The talk seeks to enrich our understanding of civil society's evolution in transitional contexts, underscoring the pivotal yet potentially detrimental role of local actors' agency, the national framework, and international collaboration in fostering a resilient and vibrant civil society.

**Dr. Chiara Pierobon** is DAAD Visiting Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington (USA). Her main areas of expertise are EU's support to civil society in Central Asia, promotion of democracy, human rights and sustainable development, prevention of violent extremism (PVE), public diplomacy, social capital and resilience. Her studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as the Central Asian Affairs, Central Asian Survey, Development Policy Review, Evaluation and she has contributed as an author and editor to volumes published by Nomos, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Sage and Springer. She previously served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Bielefeld University, as a Visiting Professor for European Societies at Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg (Germany), and as a Visiting Scholar at the American University of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), German Kazakh University (Kazakhstan), University of California, Berkeley (USA), and St. Petersburg State University (Russia).