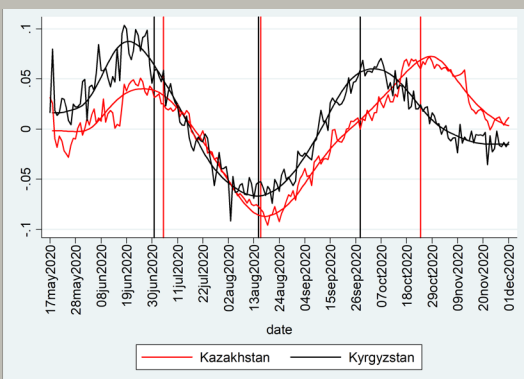
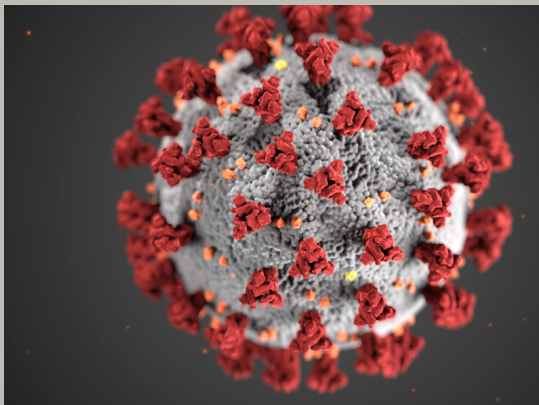




RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST - RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
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Graduate School of Public Policy News

ARE QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE AT REDUCING THE GROWTH RATE OF COVID-19 IN CENTRAL ASIA?



By Simeon Nanovsky

Are quarantine restrictions effective? This is a question that everyone wonders about. Intuitively perhaps quarantine restrictions should decrease the number of new COVID-19 cases. Let's see if this is the case. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will be used in a case study as both countries are similar and have very similar trends in the number of new cases and quarantine dates. Figure 1 shows the number of new cases for Kazakhstan (in red) and Kyrgyzstan (in black) along with a trend line. Quarantine restrictions are given as the vertical lines for

both countries.

In 2020, there were three periods of quarantine restrictions. In the spring, starting in March both countries had full lockdowns until mid-May. This was a period of heavy business closures that only allowed essential businesses like grocery stores and pharmacies to remain open. This period is not shown in the figure as there were many missing observations and the number of cases remained relatively low and highly volatile. Then in the summer, Kazakhstan had a second full lockdown from July 5th until August 16th while Kyrgyzstan had a partial lockdown from July 1st until August 15th. The partial lockdown allowed many businesses to remain open with curfews including restaurants and shopping centers; there were continued closures however on schools, fitness clubs, cinemas, bars, karaoke, and nightclubs; perhaps these are locations with too much social interaction.

Although both countries imposed the restrictions in early July the number of new cases did not start decreasing until after July 20th. The cases then kept decreasing and quarantines were removed mid-August; even so, the cases continued to decrease until mid-September. Kyrgyzstan then imposed localized fall restrictions on September 28th, but its cases continued to increase until the beginning of November. Similarly, Kazakhstan also imposed localized restrictions on October 24th, but its cases never decreased afterwards. Given this data, it is hard to argue that quarantine restrictions limit the number of new cases¹.

Interestingly enough one could argue that quarantine restrictions reduce the growth rate in new cases rather than their levels². One could compute the daily growth rate directly from the new cases data, but it is much too volatile; therefore, a two-week moving average of it is computed as smoother. The results are shown in figure 2 alongside a trend. In this figure, the growth rate is given as a decimal point where a .05 represents a 5% increase in daily new cases, while a -.05 represents a 5% decrease.

¹Data on new COVID-19 cases is taken from <https://www.worldometers.info> and is based on official government sources. Data on quarantine restrictions in from Russian news articles and official announcements found here: Azattyk (2020), Chief Sanitary Doctor (2020), Meria (2020), Republican Headquarters (2020), Tokayev (2020a), Tokayev (2020b), and Zhuravleva (2020).

²The growth rate is the ratio of new cases today divided by the previous day's new cases minus one. If new cases go from 1000 to 1100 from one day to the next then the growth rate is 0.1 or 10% growth.

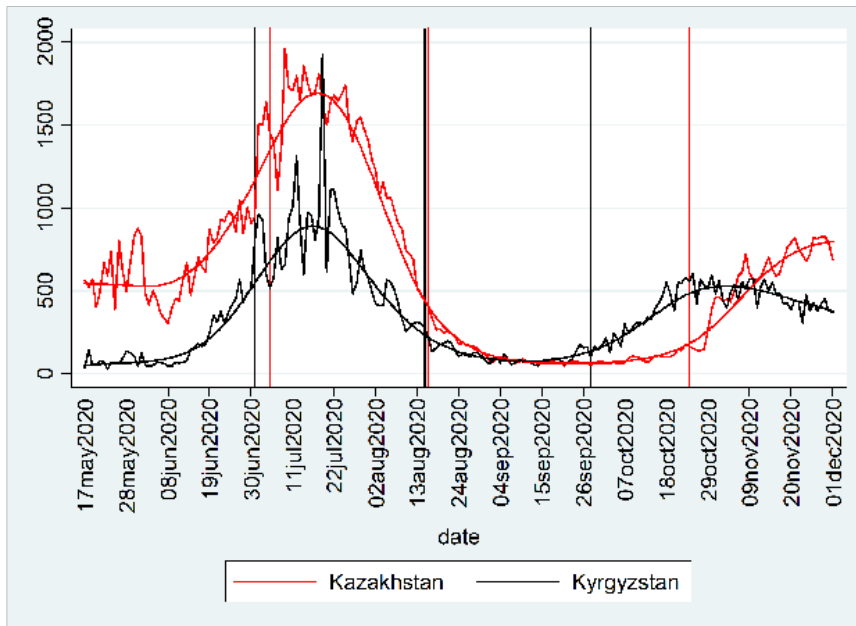


Figure 1: New cases

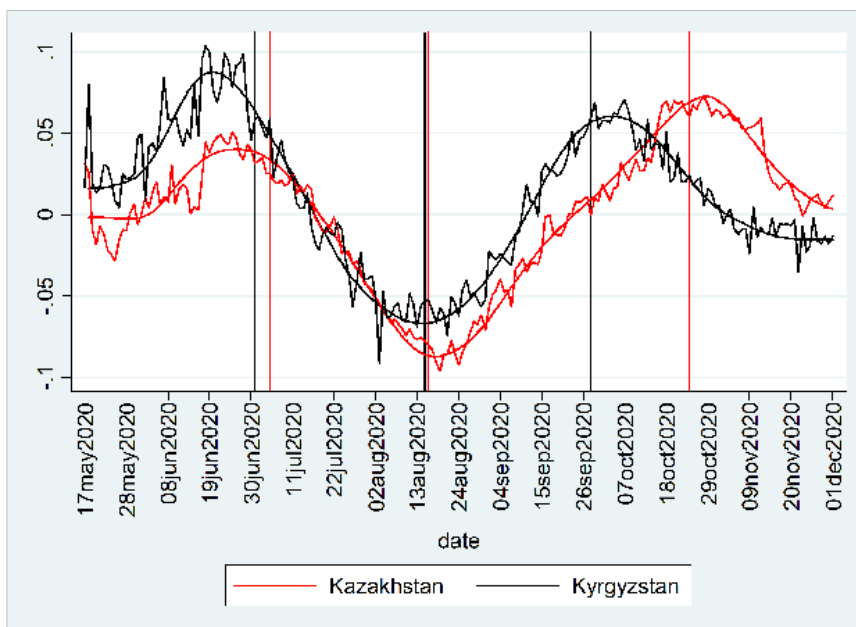


Figure 2: Growth rate in new cases

At a first glance, it appears that this growth rate is much more correlated with the quarantine restrictions. As shown in the figure, starting in May the growth rate increases until it reaches a peak around the end of June. This is perhaps due to increased public caution and lack of testing kits just prior to the summer quarantine in early July³. As the summer quarantine is imposed the growth rate continues to decline and reaches a negative territory at the end of July; this is where the levels of new cases actually start decreasing. The growth decline lasts until the end of the quarantine period in mid-August. With the removal of restrictions, the growth rate then gradually starts increasing (but remains in a negative territory). Eventually, it turns positive and Kyrgyzstan imposes fall restrictions at the end of September. Soon after the growth rate for Kyrgyzstan again starts declining. Eventually, it turns negative at the beginning of November and so new cases begin to decline as well. In the meantime, Kazakhstan also imposes fall restrictions at the end of October and its growth rate does start to decline but never reaches a negative territory until the end of the sample. Based on this evidence it appears that the quarantine restrictions are indeed very important as they are able to influence the growth rate of the virus.

Notice that the most effective restrictions were the summer lockdowns for both countries. The

³See Sputnik (2020) and Vlast (2020).

growth rate in Kazakhstan dropped roughly from .04 (or 4% increase in new cases per day) in the beginning of July to -.08 (or an 8% decrease in new cases per day) in the middle of August. This is a 12 percentage point drop. On the other hand for Kyrgyzstan the growth rate dropped from .06 in the beginning of July to -.06 in the middle of August. This is again a 12 percentage point drop. Interestingly enough, although it appears that the summer lockdowns were just as effective for both countries, Kazakhstan had a very strict lockdown with many business closures while Kyrgyzstan only had a partial lockdown. As of May 2021 both countries, and many other countries around the world, have seen an explosion in new cases. As the evidence from Central Asia shows, to avoid drastic economic consequences, countries can obtain similar results by implementing a partial lockdown instead of a full lockdown.

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School of Mining and Geosciences

OLD WHALES OF KARAGIYE

PREPARED BY LAURENT RICHARD

After an interruption in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic, we were back two weeks ago in the Karagiye Depression with nine enthusiastic SMG students, and the objective of finishing the sampling initiated two years ago and collecting a few whale bones for our teaching collections: mission accomplished!

GEOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS OF THE KARAGIYE DEPRESSION

The Karagiye Depression is the lowest point in Kazakhstan, with an elevation of 138 meters below sea level. It is located in the Mangyshlak Peninsula near the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea (~50 km away east of the city of Aktau). In this depression, thick packages of marine sediments of the Miocene epoch (23 Ma – 5 Ma) are exposed. These sediments were deposited in the Paratethyan Sea, the largest epicontinental sea in Earth history. The Eastern Paratethys, which stretched from the Carpathian Mountains to the Mangyshlak Peninsula, was connected to the global ocean in the earliest stages of its history (Figure 1). As a result of tectonic processes (namely the collision of the African and Arabian plates with Eurasia), the connection was gradually lost and the Eastern Paratethys became an isolated basin. The sediments exposed in the Karagiye Depression are represented by marine clays and limestones, suggesting a change from a deep to a shallower environment during the evolution of the basin. A spectacular biotic endemic record has developed under the influence of dynamic sea level fluctuations (desiccation, flooding events). A diverse and endemic fauna of bivalves, gastropods, fishes, sharks, and marine mammals (seals, whales) may be encountered in Karagiye – a witness of the earlier marine connection of the Eastern Paratethys.



Figure 1 - Paleogeographic map illustrating the connection of the Paratethys to the global ocean.

ORIGIN OF WHALES

Although Charles Darwin was the first to hypothesize in the inaugural edition (1859) of *On the Origin of Species* that whales derived from land mammals, only very recently was it demonstrated that whales evolved some 50 million years ago (50 Ma) from an ancestor similar to a small Eocene terrestrial artiodactyl named *Indohyus* (Figure 2), who would occasionally jump in water to escape predators (Thewissen et al., 2007). The relation between artiodactyls and modern whales had previously been established based on molecular biology studies: hippos are today the closest relatives to whales (Nikaido et al., 1999) – although hippos evolved much more recently (after ~ 15 Ma) compared to whales. The transition from amphibious to completely aquatic lifestyle in early whales is thought to have happened ~ 46 Ma, with the first *Protocetidae*. Throughout the Cenozoic, starting with the *Indohyus*-like ancestor, whales of the early Eocene (referred to as *Archaeoceti*) have seen a series of morphological adaptations including, among others, osteosclerosis of the limbs, a change in diet resulting in modifications of the teeth, the transformation of the limbs in fins, the appearance of a blowhole and a fluke, the disappearance of sacral vertebrae, and the transition from fur to skin, all of which eventually resulted in the rise of the *Neoceti* in the Late Eocene at ~ 37 Ma.



Figure 2 - *Indohyus*, an Eocene terrestrial artiodactyl. Whales evolved from an ancestor similar to *Indohyus*.

WHALES OF KARAGIYE

During the expedition, we collected several ribs and vertebrae, as well as a few fin bones belonging to whales from the Late Miocene (11-9 Ma). These fossil bones (Figure 3) have been attributed to *Cetotheriidae* (Pavel Gol'din, University of Kiev, personal communication to D.V.), an extinct family of whales which is thought to have lived between the end of the Oligocene and the start of the Pleistocene (Figure 4). Mention should be made here that the rare pygmy right whale, which strictly enjoys the waters of the Southern Hemisphere, could be a modern relative of the *Cetotheriidae*.

The bones are now going to be cleaned, inventoried, described, and made available to the scientific community to deepen our knowledge of the evolution of marine mammals.



Figure 3 – Ribs and vertebrae of fossil whales from the Miocene of Karagiye.

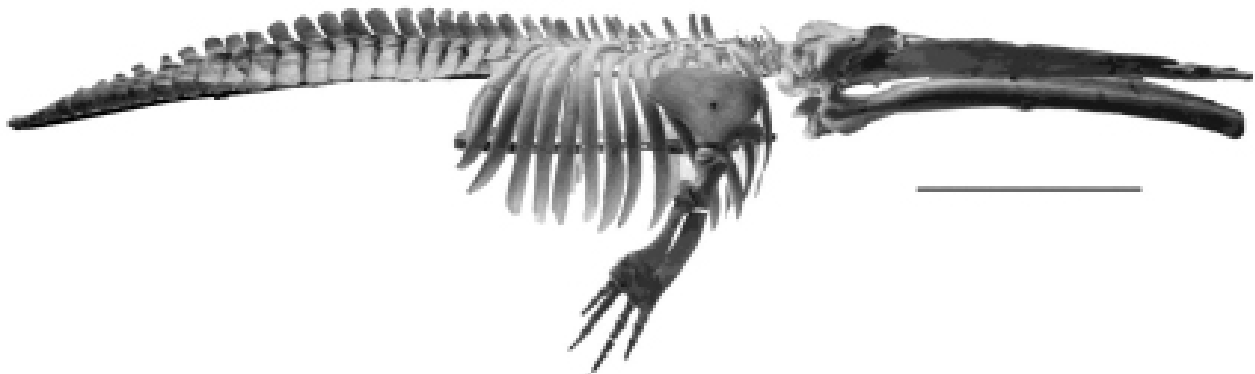


Figure 4 – A reconstruction of the Miocene whale *Cetotherium* (Gol'din et al., 2014) – Scale bar 50 cm.

In a next edition, we will tell you about the Jurassic evolution of insects and their interactions with angiosperms.

Acknowledgements – Thanks are due to our drivers for their patience while waiting for us during hours on top of the Karagiye depression, to Alibek, Dastan, Dias, Dilnaz, Gulim, Ilyas, Leila, and Zhaudir for their hard work under the hard Sun of Karagiye and for making this expedition truly enjoyable, to Andrey Yershov for being such a good photographer, and to Assem Beketova for organizing all the logistics so wonderfully.

Ayana Karakozhayeva¹, Davit Vasilyan², Laurent Richard¹, Sergei Lazarev³

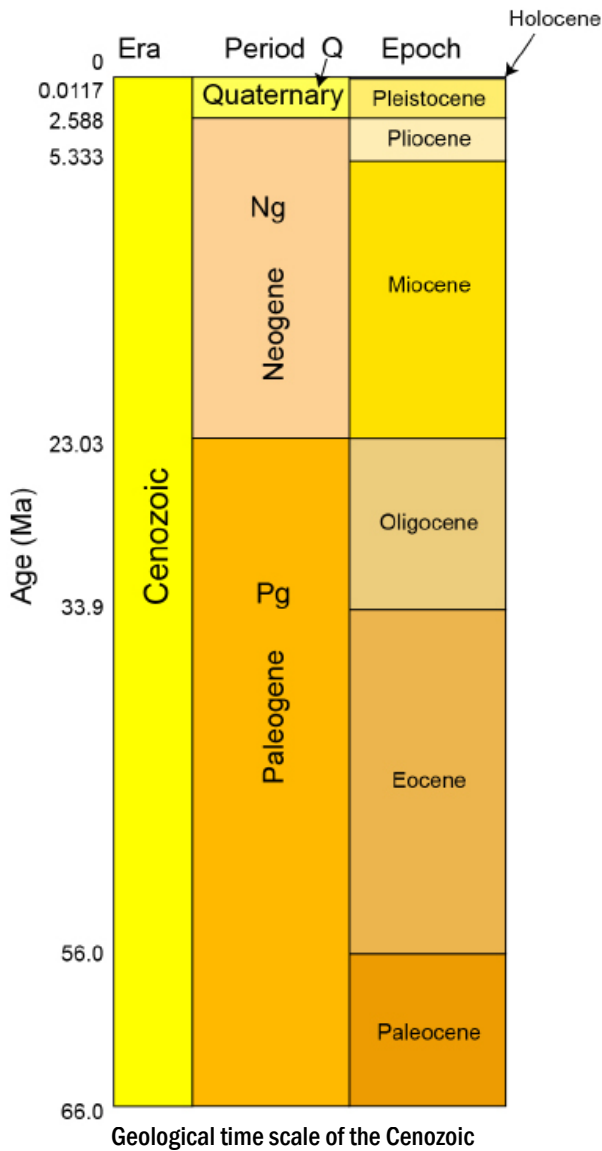
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²*Jurassica Museum, Porrentruy, Jura, Switzerland*

³*Department of Geosciences, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland*

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SEISMIC INTERPRETATION AND STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

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It is very common in the Petroleum-Industry to carry out the structural interpretation for the 2D and 3D seismic data by geophysicists. This practice although is almost always taken for granted, it is commonly occurred with some errors. This is, to far extent, due to the lack of structural geology discipline training and/or supervision, especially when conducted in an area that is characterized by complex structural setting.

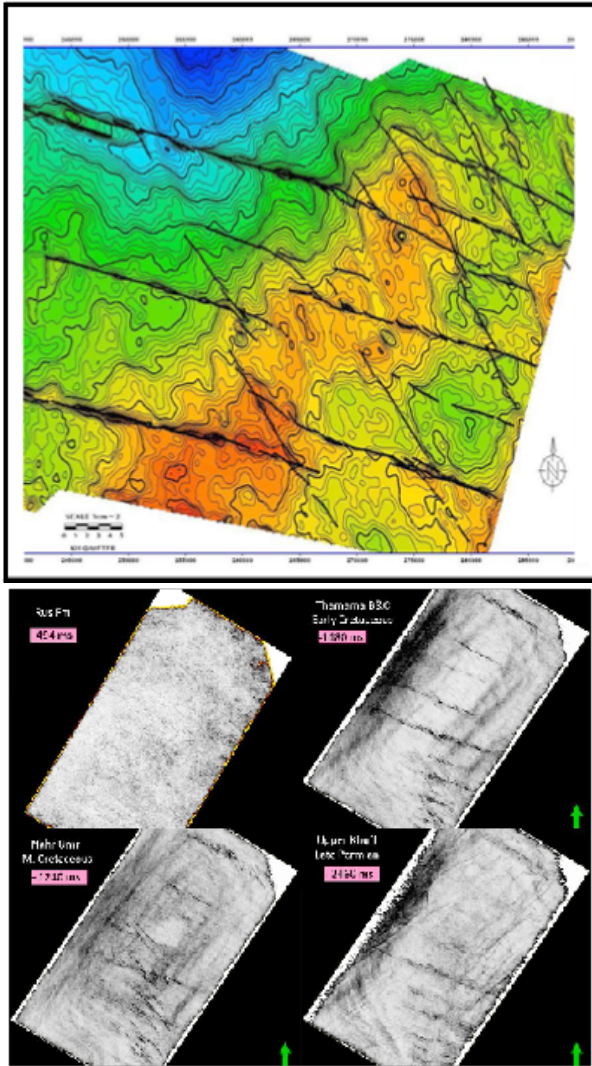


Fig. 1. First row: A map view of Abu Dhabi crust (from Ben Maroof, et al, 2011) shows two sets of seismic faults (N75W and N45W), that were interpreted as conjugate sets (Johnson et al, 2002). Second row: Coherence maps over Field B revealing the main N75W and N45W seismic faults. Note that in the relatively older map (Upper Khuff Fn., Late Permian) only the N75W faults exist, while the N45W faults become visible in the Early Cretaceous and prevailing in the younger Rus Fm (Lower Eocene, ca 55 Ma)

Each geological structure exists whether on surface or in the subsurface, may lead the interpreters into erroneous kinematics interpretation unless it has been interpreted in 3D (e.g. Twiss and Moores, 2007). This specially applies to seismic faults interpretation, where the bed-markers and faults surface indicators such as slickensides are missing. Whereas on different cross sections faults' throws and heaves can be used to estimate the approximate amount of displacements. This is not the case with strike-slip faults, which are rather much complicated as the cross sections cannot reveal much information about the displacement. This can be demonstrated by Figure 1, where in the first row an erroneous interpretation has been done by Johnson et al. (2002) who consider the two fault sets striking N75W and N45W respectively as conjugate sets. The definition of the conjugate faults are those faults that occur coevally under the same compressive stress (Twiss and Moores, 2007). However, as shown in the second row of Figure 1, where coherence successive time slices indicate that it is likely that they are not conjugate sets, as they were developed in different time under different compressive stresses (Sirat, 2015). Likewise, Sirat (2015) has conducted a conceptual model of a pseudo 3D faults interpretation on two successive seismic profiles separated by 2000ft indicates a possible complex structure that can better explain the faults kinematics (Fig. 2).

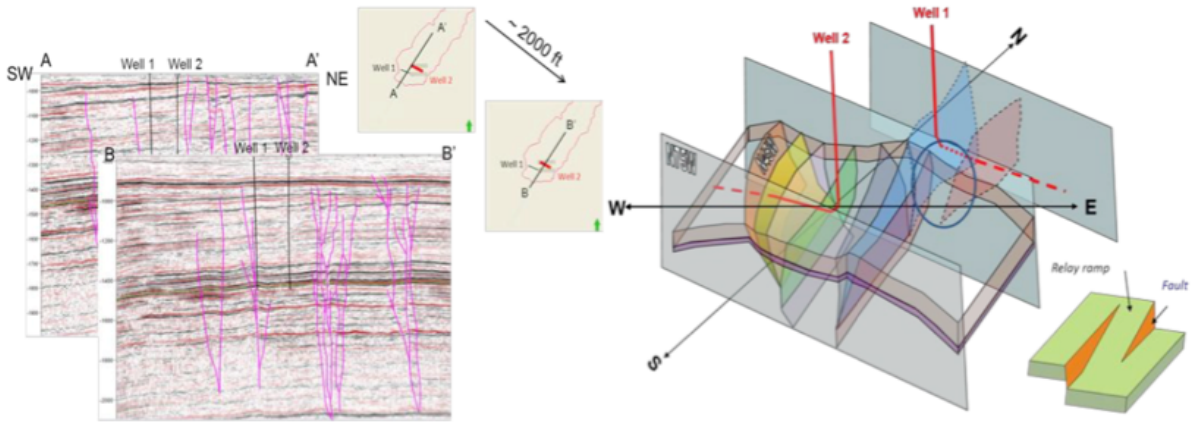


Fig. 2. On the left: Seismic interpretation of two successive seismic profiles indicates the occurrence of several flower structures (pink color) under strike-slip regime. On the right: a 3D conceptual model that links the flower structures may reveal the 3D configuration of the complex structure with possible faults linkage relay ramp (Sirat, SPE 175604, 2015).

Possible misinterpretation applies not only to the fault geometry or kinematics but to the mechanical behavior of these faults too, which eventually can lead to erroneous results in their dynamics interpretation. Faulting mechanism follows systematic roles of thumb and accordingly the classification of the fault systems (Anderson, 1951; Fig. 3, 1st row) depends essentially on the principal stress vectors that are defined by both magnitude and orientation. Therefore, special attention must be given to the seismic interpretation of the fault systems particularly if given in 2D seismic profiles. Even with the availability of 3D seismic volumes, the interpretation should be conducted with the supervision of structural geologists to use the in-situ stress data to verify if the magnitudes would be adequate to reactivate the pre-existing faults or not (Fig.3, 2nd row).

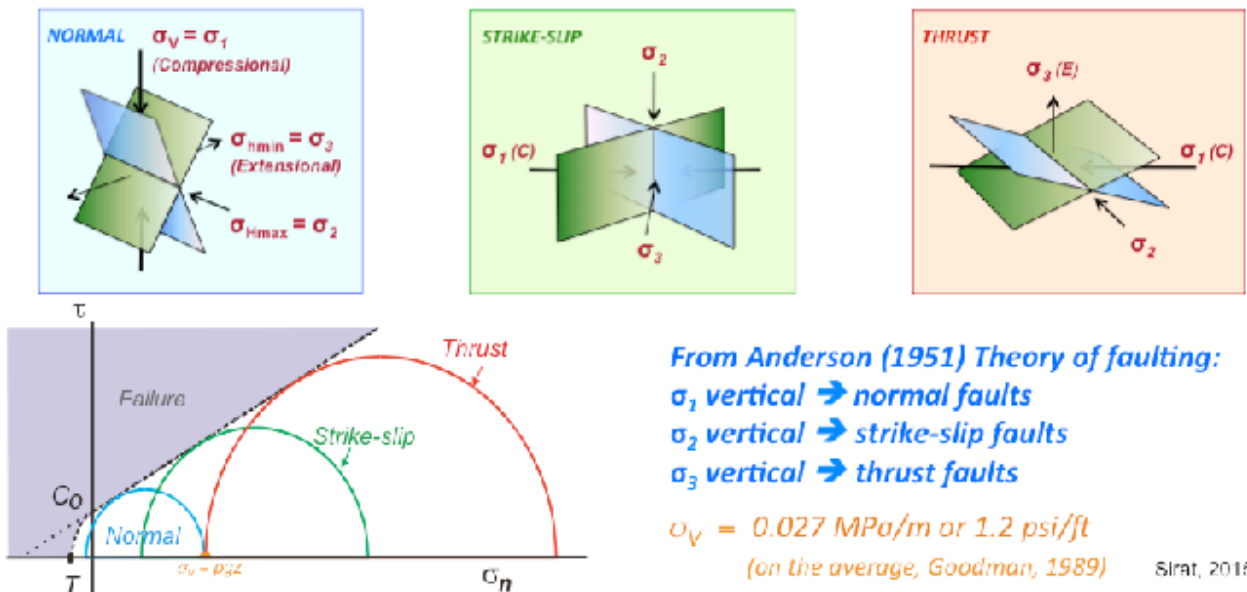


Fig. 3. First row: Andersonian theory of faulting and stress regimes (1951). Second row: Mohr Circle and Coulomb Criteria of the normal stress (σ_n) and the shear stress (τ) indicating the critical magnitude for each stress regimes above which fractures occur or reactivate.

The mechanical stratigraphy is another constraint that usually being denied, or misinterpreted by the non-structural geologists, which may significantly affect the conclusion and the implementation for exploration, production and field development. This is because both rock mechanical and elastic properties and regional- and in-situ stresses control the formation and development of fractures/faults and control to where the fault or fracture could have been propagated (Talbot and Sirat, 2001; Sirat et. al., 2014; Fig. 4, 1st row). On the other hand, the pre-existing fractures, can affect the orientations and the magnitudes of the newly disturbed in-situ stresses by the activity of drilling, production, and/or injection processes if occur at the vicinity of those fractures (Fig. 4, 2nd row).

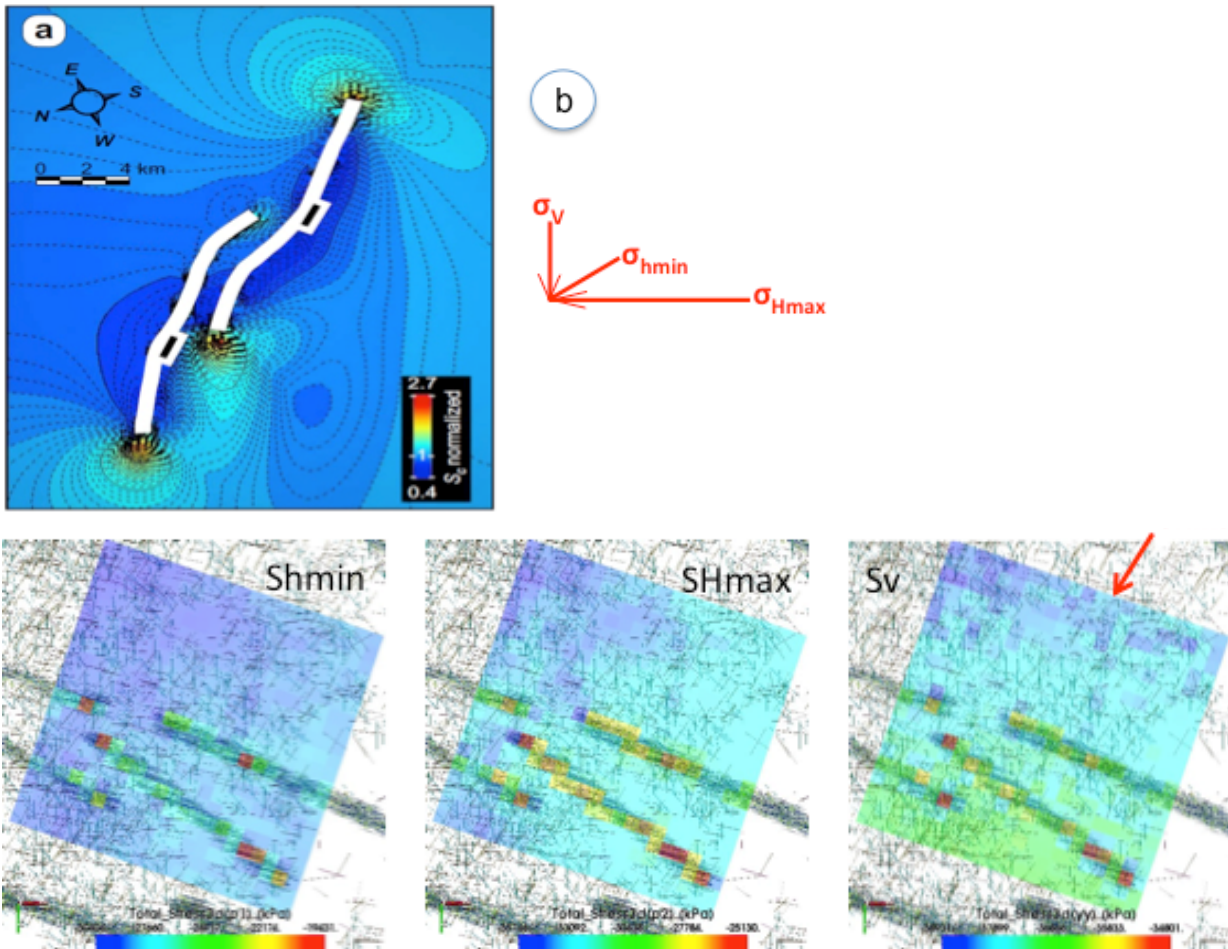


Fig. 4. First row: In-situ stress concentration at the tip of the pre-existing fractures, which controls their propagation. Second row: The impact of the pre-existing fracture on the in-situ stresses; Lower stress magnitudes were predicted within fractured areas, particularly along fracture corridors (Sirat et. al., IPTC-17593, 2014)

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Therefore, the extrapolation of the new-formed faults at the vicinity of these pre-existing fractures needs a special attention, and the potential reactivation of these faults needs professional structural and geomechanical assessment.

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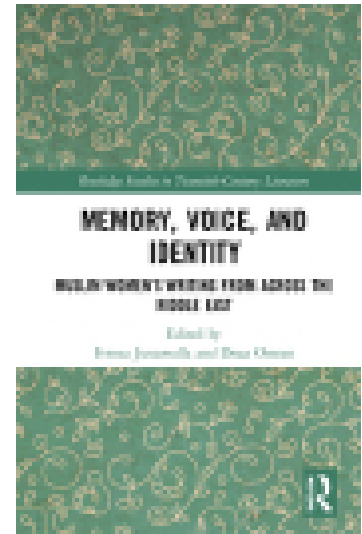


School of Sciences and Humanities News

DR. FUNDA GUVEN REVIEWS POLITICAL IDENTITY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE NOVELS OF PIOUS WOMEN AUTHORS IN TURKEY



Dr. Funda Guven Assistant Professor in the Department of Kazakh Language and Turkic Studies has published a book chapter “*Spheres of Piety: Politicization of Muslim Women in Turkish Novels*” in the book [*Memory, Voice and Identity: Muslim Women’s Writing From Across the Middle East*](#), Edited by *Feroza Jussawalla* and *Doaa Omran*, Routledge (2021). Dr.



Guven argues that pious Muslim women authors present and project Muslim women as agents in society, creating a space for themselves in the publishing sector so their work becomes visible to others, as well as creating a space in society for those who have become active participants of the public sphere in the 2000s. She explores novel of Fatma Barbarosoğlu’s biographical novel, *Uzak Ülke* (Distant Country) Şule Yüksel Şenler’s novel *Huzur Sokağı* (Peace Street), Yıldız Ramazonoğlu’s *İkna Odası* (Conviction Room) and Cihan Aktaş’s work *Sınıra Yakın* (Close to the Border) while focusing insightful stories of Muslim women revealing their conflicts through the characters in the novels.

DR. FUNDA GUVEN EXPLORES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPACE AND TRANSNATIONAL TURKIC IDENTITY IN TURKISH FICTION

Dr. Funda Guven Assistant Professor in the Department of Kazakh Language and Turkic Studies has published an article “[*Transnational Turkic Identity in Hilal Görününce by Sevinç Çokum*](#)” in the *Middle Eastern Literatures*, Volume 23, Issue 3, on May 10, 2021. Dr. Guven argues that the author makes the sites and spaces in Crimea familiar to a Turkish audience while mirroring transnational Turkish identity. Çokum uses distant Turkic communities to construct a Tatar national identity among ethnic Tatars in Turkey, utilizing geography and linguistic, historical, and blood ties. By imagining a community based in both tangible and intangible cultural spaces, the novel nurtures a cultural identity of the Turkic community and highlights the trauma that was created by mass migration from the periphery of the Ottoman Empire to Anatolia. The novel additionally integrates Turkish identity into a broader Turkic identity.

MARIA RYBAKOVA'S BOOKS REVIEWS AT LARB



[Los Angeles Review of Books](#) is a literary journal that covers genres from poetry and highbrow fiction to detective stories and horror. Both West Coast and cosmopolitan in spirit, it has become a veritable encyclopedia of contemporary culture, reviewing film, politics, comic strips, and philosophy.

Over the past few years, Maria Rybakova (Assistant Professor at the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Literatures) has become a regular contributor to the LARB. Her essays covered Mircea Eliade's adolescent novel, Czeslaw Milosz's biography, the American anthropologist's Katherine Verdery's reading of her own secret police files, and a Russian mystic's erotic obsession. Rybakova's most recent contributions including a translation of Russian writers' civil rights organization's letter protesting the arrest of Alexei Navalny and a review of a biography of the American thriller writer Patricia Highsmith. It was Highsmith's books that inspired Alfred Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train" and Anthony Minghella's "The Talented Mr. Ripley." Yet, for all her success, Patricia Highsmith was a deeply tormented and controversial figure.

Maria's reviews are available via the following links:

- [Highsmith Was a Troll: On Richard Bradford's "Devils, Lusts and Strange Desires"](#)
- [A PEN Petition in Defense of Alexei Navalny](#)
- [Perseverance of Love: On Irvin Yalom's "Becoming Myself"](#)
- [Against the Devil: The Tormented Life of Czesław Miłosz](#)
- [Let Us Rejoice While We Are Young](#)



Graduate School of Education

EFFECTIVE BALANCING OF RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES: CASE OF RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY VERSUS ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

By Tsediso Michael Makoelle



Deans and vice deans are regarded as both administrators and research leaders. The inherent tension between this duality sometimes results in one aspect of the work being overlooked or compromised. The question that those who hold this position usually ask is *“how do I maintain a balance between the two roles such that I remain effective and relevant in both directions?”* Dean and vice deans have to be shining examples of scholarship, management, administration and leadership.

In this article I reflect on my academic life as the vice dean for research at GSE as I seek to highlight some of the practices that I consider important and could enable researcher administrators to be productive even under conditions of multiple pressures and commitments brought about by the demands of the responsibility that accompany their dual duties. First of all, the vice dean for research works through, with and directly with research chairs/heads and coordinates all the research activities of the school. He is involved at school and university executive committees which are often characterized by long meetings and strategic breakaways often time consuming.

SOME REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF GSE VICE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Being the vice dean at a rapidly developing and evolving educational institution like Nazarbayev University, specifically, for research at the Graduate School of Education entails commitment to both responsibility as an academic and the administrative duties which include the school research operations and activities. The vice dean for research is an academic in own right and should also be an example of a researcher that engages in quality research, publishes various forms of research outputs and is both productive and diligent. Therefore, balancing administrative and research responsibility requires a careful planning of both the vice dean’s personal life, time management and proper scheduling of administrative activities such that time is available to still continue as an effective and productive researcher.

Therefore, several strategic practices are necessary to sustain such an academic life which requires a high level of commitment, motivation and leadership. Several practices have worked for me as vice dean in order to balance administrative and academic roles:

Firstly, leadership style is crucial for success. Working through a distributed-participative model of leadership which is characterized by horizontal distribution of responsibility while leading and mentoring others is very key. Distributed leadership prioritizes collaboration and cooperation between faculty and administrators, thus making the burden of work much lighter. Research oriented activities such as peer-review of manuscript by colleagues and writing retreats, coffee breaks, and lunches have all contributed immensely to my writing. This imply utilizing the expertise around you as a strategic resource can only enable you to reap the benefits of the talent and wisdom that surrounds you from fellow colleagues.

Secondly, at the environment like NU it is prudent to have a schedule of your academic life routine well planned and making provision for various activities required for teaching, research and service. This can be done by setting up personal research goals that are realistic and achievable within the constraints an evolving academic and research environment which is pact with institutional developmental research and academic initiatives.

Thirdly, it is important that in the situation of heightened expectation for delivery and productivity, a researcher embarks on the process of self- action-research which is a reflective and critical continual process of improvement and renewal in order to keep pace with the ever-increasing pressure to do better in a situation emanating from an ambitious university which wants to see itself in the top world rankings. In this context it is crucial to refrain from unhealthy competition with others as this could lead you astray in a quest to actualize your research potential. Therefore, the need to focus on one's personal journey and research trajectory is paramount as it enables one to compete with one's goals rather than those of others.

Fourthly, being passionate about one's research is a big booster for motivation and self-confidence. The research agenda is well implemented once it falls within the framework of one's interest and personal goals. Passion followed by clear and demonstrable key performance indicators planned in a clearly defined action plan is a recipe for success. Therefore, a clear research identity is necessary to resist any deviation from the course of your research agenda. Knowing what you "Profess" on is important rather than being a superficial "Know All".

Fifthly, engaging in the scholarship of teaching whereby one's teaching is influenced by research and in turn teaching influences research became one of the critical practices leading to quality, ethical and critical research that leads to the improvement of practice necessary to sustain high quality teaching and learning.

Lastly, while time taken off the work could sometimes be considered by others as a hard thing to do given our deadlines and pressures to do well in academia, believe me working seven days a week will only harm your chances of producing quality work. I have learners that spending quality leisure time off work, engaging in sport and exercising plays a pivotal role in re-energizing the motivation and concentration during research work. The following section demonstrates the successes I have mounted by following these simple principles.

WHAT ARE THE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTPUTS AS A RESULT?

Just in five years (5) I successfully worked on more than 30 publications of which 25 have already been published bringing a total of my career research output to just over 60 publications which is phenomenal for social science research such as in education. I did this while grappling with the challenges of administrative load of vice dean for research, teaching and service loads. Let me just give you a glimpse of the work I have been able to do in terms of books, book chapters, journal papers and conference papers.

Books

Book publication are a very important integral part of social science research output such as in education. It may be a very lengthy process consisting of stage of book proposal, proposal review, manuscript review and final copy corrections and copy editing. The process can take about two (2) to three (3) years. I have so far worked on eight books (8) from which four (4) have been published. Two of these are monographs and two edited volumes with top international publishers (see book covers on the next page):

1. Makoelle, T.M. & Somerton, M. (2021). *Inclusive Education in a post-soviet context: a case of Kazakhstan*. Netherlands: Springer Publishers. ISBN 978-3-030-65542-6
2. Makoelle, T.M., Makhalemele, T.& Du Plessis, P. (in Press, 2021) *School leadership in South Africa: perspectives, achievements and challenges since dawn of a new democratic education dispensation*: Routledge ISBN 9780367639327
3. Makoelle, T.M. (2019) [Action Research: a critical praxis](#). *Sun Press Publishers*. ISBN 978-1-928480-32-7/ ISBN 978-1-928480-33-4 (e-book)
4. Makoelle, T.M. (2016) *Inclusive Teaching in South Africa*. Sun Press Publishers, SBN 978-1-928355-02-1 ISBN 978-1-928355-03-8 (e-book) DOI: 0.18820/9781928355038



Three additional titles in progress include: *inclusive education in the Russian Federation post USSR*, jointly edited with Dr Maria Kozlova of the Higher School of Economics in Russia; *teachers' preparation for the implementation of inclusive education in primary schools in Eswatini* jointly edited with Dr Slungile Thwala, Senior Lecturer at University of Eswatini in Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland); *Redefining Educational Leadership in Central Asia: Transition from Soviet Ideals to New Realities* edited with Associate Professor, Dr. Mir Afzal Tajik as well as the book entitled: *the exclusion/inclusion conundrum in Southern African education: understanding, challenges and enablement* edited with Professor Dipane Hlalele of the University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (see citations below).

5. Thwala, S. & Makoelle T.M. (under contract, 2021) Teachers Preparation for the Implementation of Inclusive Education in Primary Schools in Eswatini: Cambridge Publishers.
6. Makoelle, T.M. & Kozlova, M. (in preparation, 2021) Inclusive Education in Russia Post-USSR: Routledge
7. Mir, A.T. & Makoelle, T.M. (2021(in preparation, 2021) Redefining Educational Leadership in Central Asia: Transition from Soviet Ideals to New Realities: Springer
8. Hlalele, D. & Makoelle, T.M. (2021) (under contract, 2021) The exclusion/inclusion conundrum in Southern African education: Understanding, challenges and enablement: Springer

Book Chapters

Invitation to contribute book chapters serves as the confidence and trust that your fellow peers have on the quality of one's research work. This may also extend to contributing chapters to international handbooks and encyclopedia. As a result, several invitations to write book chapters were received to write book chapters as well as a chapter in the International Encyclopedia on Teacher Education:

9. Makoelle, T.M. (2018). *Multiculturalism through transformative teaching and learning*. In L. Tlale & T. Makhalemele, Integrating multicultural education into the curriculum for decolonization: benefits and challenges (Eds) New York: Nova Publishers, USA. ISBN: 978-1-53613-583-1
10. Makoelle, T.M. & Somerton, M. (2018). Facilitating inclusive teaching and learning spaces through digital education technology: A case of postgraduate students and faculty in Kazakhstan. In P. Peres, F. Moreira, & A. Mesquita (Eds.), *Educational and Social Dimensions of Digital Transformation in Organizations* (pp. 43-64). Portugal: IGI Global Publishing.
11. Makoelle, T.M. (2015). Disability a social discourse: who is disabled? In Magano D & Ramnarian U, Teaching Sustainability in the 21st century: Pearson ISBN 9781775952992.
12. Makoelle, T. M. (2015). Gender and disability: who is enabled finally? In Magano D & Maguvhe. Disability in Context; a socio-educational perspective in South Africa: Cengage Learning, ISBN: 978-1-4737-1907-1
13. Makoelle, T.M. (2019). Teacher empathy: a prerequisite for an inclusive classroom. In M.A Peters, Encyclopedia for Teacher Education: Springer DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1179-6_43-1

Journal Articles

Publishing a journal article in social science is a tedious process. The paper is usually on average between seven thousand (7000) to ten thousand (10000) words. The publication of a social science paper especially in the field of education could take about a year to eighteen months or two years making it a very lengthy process. A social scientist may publish an average of 2 papers a year depending on time available. Several Journal papers were published in Scopus and Web of Science indexed Journals and some have recently been accepted for publication in the forthcoming volumes.

14. Makoelle, T.M. & du Plessis, P. (2019) [Analyzing principal's policy perceptions of educator's disciplinary procedure: cases in Gauteng province of South Africa](#): Interchange: Springer: 1-14.
15. Makoelle, T.M. & Makhalemele T (2019) [Teacher leadership in South African schools](#), International Journal of Management in Education,14(3) 293-310.
16. Makoelle, T.M. (2019). [Language, terminology and inclusive education: a case of Kazakhstani transition to inclusion](#), Sage Open Journal SAGE Open, 10 (1): 1–8.
17. Makoelle, T.M. (2020). [Schools transition towards inclusive education in post-soviet countries: selected cases in Kazakhstan](#) Sage Open Journal SAGE Open, 10 (2).
18. Somerton, M., Helmer, J., Kasa, R., Torrano, D., & Makoelle, T. M. (2020). [Defining spaces: Resource centres, collaboration, and inclusive education in Kazakhstan](#). Journal of Educational Change.
19. Makoelle, T.M. & Burmistrova, V. (2021). [Teacher education and inclusive education in Kazakhstan](#), International Journal of Inclusive Education.
20. Makoelle, T.M. & Burmistrova, V. (2020) [Financing School Education: funding inclusive education for equity and social Justice in South African schools](#), South African Journal of Education, 40, (4).
21. Ayaya, G., Makoelle, T.M. & Van der Merwe, M. (2020) [Participatory action research: a tool for enhancing inclusive teaching practices among teachers in South African full-service schools](#), SAGE Open Journal, 10 (4).
22. Helmer, J., Somerton, M., Kasa R., Torrano, H. & Makoelle, T.M. (2021) [Planting the seeds for inclusive education: one resource centre at a time](#), International Journal of Inclusive Education.
23. Ayaya, G., Makoelle, T.M. & Van der Merwe, M. (2021, accepted) Developing a framework for inclusion: a case of a full-service school in South Africa, International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education.
24. Ngwenya, N., Makoelle T.M. & Van der Merwe, M.P. (accepted, 2021) Participatory action research as strategy for developing inclusive teaching and learning practices in adult education centres: A case of a centre in Gauteng East District of South Africa: Interchange.
25. Bekzhanova, Z. & Makoelle, T.M. (accepted, 2021). Latinization of the Kazakh alphabet: implications for education, inclusion, and social cohesion in Kazakhstan, SAGE Open Journal.
26. Akhmetova, G., Makoelle, T.M. & Temirgaliev, K (accepted, 2021) facilitating student centered learning through action research: an analysis of students experiences and perceptions in a Kazakhstani medical school, Educational Action Research.

Several papers were published in the local Journals:

27. Makoelle, T.M. (2018). [Inclusive Education in Post-Soviet Countries: a case of Kazakhstan](#), NUGSE Research in Education Journal
28. Makoelle TM (2017) Assessment in Inclusive classrooms: Analysis of selected Kazakhstani classrooms in Inclusive schools, Pedagogical Dialogue, vol 1 (19) 62-65.
29. Makoelle, T.M. (2016). Inclusive Education Approach in Higher Education: a case of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan Higher Education Journal, no4/2016: 10-14.

It is recommended that faculty publishes with students. My doctoral student and I published this paper:

30. Makoelle, T.M., & Assanbayev, A. (2018). [Practices Promoting Inclusion of Adult Students with Disabilities in Kazakhstani Technical Vocational Education and Training Institutions \(TVETIs\)](#). In Proceedings (online): Nägele, C., & Stalder, B. E. (Eds.) (2018). Trends in vocational education and training research. Proceedings of the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), Vocational Education and Training Network (VETNET).

Conferences

Giving keynote addresses is an integral part of the life of an academic. However, being the vice dean with all administrative load sometimes may hinder or limit the extent to which such invitations could be accepted although this is a highly desirable activity for research dissemination. Two international keynotes were addressed:

- *Makoelle, T.M. (2019) The changing role of academics in higher education governance and administration, Plenary talk at IAFOR International Asian Conference on Education, 31 October-03 November, Tokyo, Japan.

- *Makoelle, T.M. (2016). Multicultural Education as a Strategy for One Belt, One Road Cultural Exchange and Integration, presented at International Conference, One Belt, One Road Industry/ Education Integration and Enterprises Development, held by the National Centre for Schooling Development Programme, China Ministry of Education and ZET Corporation in Beijing on December 05-06 2016.

A major key note will take place in 1st International Conference “Constructions of educational spaces in a post-Soviet and post-socialist area”. It will be held on September 24, 2021 (8.00-18.00) as a digital conference via Zoom and hosted by the DIPF | Leibniz Institute for Educational Research and Information Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Secondly, Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, Moscow State University of Psychology & Education together with the International Laboratory for Social Integration research and National Research University Higher School of Economics will host VI International Scientific and Practical Conference «INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SOCIETY: STRATEGIES, PRACTICES, RESOURCES «Moscow, October 20-21, 2021. An invitation to deliver a key note address at this event has already been accepted.

CONCLUSION

While I am writing this reflective article as the vice dean, I do believe that the challenge of research productivity is for all those who are in research leadership. While not under playing the significance of administrative excellence, research leaders should be mindful that the credibility of the research leader will be greatly influenced by research productivity and excellence rather than some other things. It is therefore, imperative to maintain a balance between research productivity and administrative duties. This will allow one to stay relevant to one’s research field, stay on one’s research trajectory and fulfil one’s research goals and interests.



Graduate School of Business

BUSINESS DIGEST SERIES

April - June 2021

The Business Digest Series summarizes short pieces of research from GSB faculty, highlighting the key takeaways and policy implications, relevant for the wider business community and policymakers (see [LINK](#)). The latest two digests zoom in on the role of trade collaborations and how social corporate responsibility impacts investor trust.

Business Digest 2021/03, by David DeRemer, looks at the role of trade cooperation, which is possible even if trade barriers are prohibitive. Even taking countries' political preferences as given, all involved may have focused too narrowly on removing trade barriers of immediate interest to incumbent exporters, rather than identifying all potential gains from new trade cooperation. Trade cooperation benefits consumers and intermediate importers, who can achieve lower prices and access new products. Trade cooperation also benefits exporters, who benefit broadly from international engagement. Fully achieving these benefits of trade cooperation in industries where policies are presently prohibitive is crucial for the future of trade institutions and economic development.

Business Digest 2021/04 by Doron Israeli and Atanu Rakshit argues that developing and maintaining trust among investors is a central focus of firms' investor relations activities. To this end they examine whether Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) increases investor trust in firms and find evidence for it. Their findings inform the securities commissions and other regulators who are interested in improving the functioning of capital markets and understanding the role of CSR therein.

GSB IS INCREASING ITS POSITION IN GLOBAL RESEARCH RANKINGS

As a research-driven business school, one of the key performance indicators we watch is the global research ranking of research-oriented business schools. Other KPIs we track are h-factors (Google, Scopus, WOS), Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI), percentage of Q1 publications, number of publications in elite journals (FT-list), citations, etc. At the end of the academic year, it is good to reflect on how GSB has been doing recently. Here are some key numbers:

- **GSB has been ranked in the top-33% research category over the 2017-2021 time range** in the UT-Dallas Research ranking. 80% of all our published work is in Q1- journals. There is no other Central Asian Business School on this list, which means that **NUGSB is solidly the number one in Central Asia in high-quality business research.**
- **GSB faculty has 40 publications in the prestigious FT-journals list** (all Q1 journals). These include 8 publications in Management Science, 7 publications in the Journal of Business Ethics, 4 publications in the Review of Accounting Studies, 3 publications in American Economic Review, 3 publications in Human Relations, and 3 publications in Operations Research amongst others.
- The publications of GSB faculty are also noticed by the wider academic community. For instance, recently the research of our **colleague Ona Akemu** was chosen as the runner-up for **the best paper of 2020 in the *Organizational Research Methods* journal**. This is the top methods journal in the field of organization studies. The paper, co-authored with Samer Abdelnour, was

published in 2020, Akemu, O., & Abdelnour, S. (2020). Confronting the digital: Doing ethnography in modern organizational settings. *Organizational Research Methods*, 23(2), 296-321.

- **GSB research has an impact.** The cumulative number of google citations of GSBs research has reached more than 26,000 citations, with an average h factor of 6, the largest h factor among our faculty is 45 (largest h-10 is 85), and we have over 7,600 Scopus citations. Our research also has an impact on business and policymaking. Many of our faculty advise policy institutions, such as the European Commission and the OECD; Central Banks, such as the European Central Bank; and businesses. Recently, **NUGSB professor Doron Israeli** has been appointed as an independent member of the board of directors of the **Kazakh Stock Exchange JSC (KASE)**.
- **GSB expertise is in demand.** Our faculty serve on 6 editorial boards of top journals, extensively participate in the peer-review process for over 50 peer-reviewed journals (of which 12 are top journals), and are sought after for evaluating other institutions. Professor Joep Konings is invited as part of the visitation committee for re-accreditation of the prestigious **Tinbergen Institute (The Netherlands)**.

ACCEPTED AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS IN TOP PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

In **2020** the Graduate School of Business experienced a top year in terms of research output, with **over 16 published articles** in renowned top peer reviewed journals, various book chapters and policy reports. And **2021** continues on that path. An updated list is provided below:

Ona Akemu

1. Building Character: The Formation of a Hybrid Organizational Identity in a Social Enterprise, *Journal of Management Studies* (5yr impact factor: 5.8)

Mayowa Babalola

2. Being Ignored by loved ones: Understanding when and why family ostracism inhibits creativity at work, *Journal of Organizational Behavior* (5yr impact factor: 5.0)

3. Walumbwa, O., Christensen, A. L., Babalola, M.T., Kasimu, P., Garba, O. A., & Guo, L (in press). "A closer look at how and when family-supportive supervision influences work interference with family: The roles of family-role overload and task crafting." *International Journal of Human Resource Management*. (5yr Impact Factor: 3.0)

4. MT Babalola, MB Mawritz, RL Greenbaum, S Ren, OA Garba. "Whatever it takes: How and when supervisor bottom-line motivates employee contributions in the workplace," *Journal of Management* 47 (5), 1134-1154.

Doron Israeli

5. Unexpected Distractions and Investor Attention to Corporate Announcements, *Review of Accounting Studies* (5 yr impact factor: 3.7)

6. Stock Price Management and Share Issuance: Evidence from Equity Warrants, *The Accounting Review* (5 yr impact factor: 5.8)

7. The Real Side of the High-Volume Return Premium, *Management Science* (5 yr impact factor: 5.5)

Joep Konings

8. The Return on Information Technology – Who Benefits Most? *Information Systems Research* (5 yr impact factor: 5.6)

Chandra Shekhar Pathki

9. The Org-B5: Development of a Short Work Frame-of-Reference Measure of the Big Five, *Journal of Management* (5 yr impact factor: 8.8)

Thierry Post

10. Nonparametric Tests for Optimal Predictive Ability, *International Journal of Forecasting* (5 yr impact factor: 3.96)

11. Risk Arbitrage Opportunities for Stock Index Options, *Operations Research* (5 yr impact factor: 1.7)

12. Stochastic Bounds for Reference Sets in Portfolio Analysis, *Management Science* (5 yr impact factor: 5.5)

Narendra Singh

13. Intertemporal Product Management with Strategic Consumers: The Value of Defective Product Returns, *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management* (5 yr impact factor: 4.09)

14. Narendra Singh, Ahmed Timoumi, Subodha Kumar, "Is Your Retailer a Friend or Foe: When Should the Manufacturer Allow Its Retailer to Refurbish?" *Production and Operations Management* (POM) (forthcoming).

The Center for Preparatory Studies

NU RESEARCH SUMMARY



By William McGillivray McMurtrie

For the past several years, and helped along by the quarantine, I've been working on two book-length projects, one of which is summarized briefly below (though perhaps not briefly enough).

THE SPINOZA ARCHIPELAGO

Spinoza, Scholasticism and Modernity

The first of these projects, the one which I'm now prioritizing (provisional title *The Spinoza Archipelago*, in spite of the unfortunate gulag connotation, and with Darwin in mind rather than Solzhenytsin), examines Spinoza's seemingly ambiguous relationship to scholasticism and to theology, Judaic, Islamic and Latinate Christian. The current general consensus is that Spinoza, building on the mathematisation of nature developed by Descartes, yet abandoning Descartes' dualism in favour of a naturalistic monism, brought about a decisive break with philosophical theology, a materialist historic direction which went on to become irreversible, and which fed significantly into the Enlightenment, as Jonathan Israel has notably claimed¹. And it is this broad reading of Spinoza which has also attracted Marxist and post-Marxist thinkers, both positively in the case of Althusser, Balibar, Deleuze and Negri, and more critically in the case of Badiou. These various readings of Spinoza formed the basis of my doctoral thesis (taken at Cardiff under Chris Norris), which I completed late in life, and which was formally awarded a year after my arrival here at NU.

Spinoza, then, is widely interpreted as a rationalist and materialist thinker, one who was a major contributor to the essential philosophical and political shape of our modernity. This is largely true, yet Spinoza's relationship to scholasticism, and to our established view of modernity itself, is more complex than this account seems to recognise, and considerably more nuanced. Deleuze, for example, speaks of Spinoza's 'rigorous scholasticism', and I'm sure that readers of Spinoza's *Ethics* would agree on the aptness of this description: it is developed *more geometrico*, with a logical structure which proceeds, in Aristotelian fashion, from definitions, through axioms, to derived propositions in numerical sequence, accompanied by corollaries and given detailed enrichment by a sub-text of lemma. The overall text, in fact, has the appearance of Aristotelian demonstration on steroids, a rigorously abstract work which is comparable in form to Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, a comparison which I develop further towards the end of the book.

Spinoza's 'rigorous scholasticism'

Broadly, the book tries to unpack what that description by Deleuze implies. To begin with, Spinoza chose to write in Latin (as a Marrano migrant, his first language was Portuguese, but he also spoke Spanish and Dutch, and of course Hebrew), at a time when others in his circle (the one which formed after his excommunication from the Amsterdam synagogue) were actively seeking to

¹ Israel, Jonathan, *Radical Enlightenment*, Oxford, 2002

demystify the content of theology, medicine and law by translation projects from Latin into common Dutch. In doing so, they were raising questions not only concerning the politics of language, but beyond that concerning the social distribution of knowledge. The Netherlands were anomalous at that time in the sense that in spite of Calvinist hegemony, Latin had been retained as the gateway language to theology, philosophy medicine and law. At the same time Spinoza's texts contain a warren of explicit and implicit reference to mediaeval thought. This is overtly the case with Maimonides, to whom Spinoza makes critical reference in the *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus* (some claim that Wittgenstein's choice of title in his early work was parodic in intention but I suspect a deeper relationship) in connection with the debate concerning the relative status of theology and philosophy, and the nature of the truth-claims made by both. This was a major point of debate in scholastic thought, with arguments ranging from a 'double-truth' position defended by Siger of Brabant, through to a defence of allegorical readings of Scripture in cases of conflict with demonstrative truth, as argued for by Ibn Rushd (Latinised as 'Averroes'). But along with the influence of Ibn Rushd, I also trace what I argue is the recognizable influence of the thought of Ibn Sina (Latinised as Avicenna), and also that of Duns Scotus and of Cusanus. And these claims of influence try to develop new approaches to the question of influence itself, moving beyond intentional one-to-one reference, through transitive influence (If A is influenced by X and X is influenced by Y then A is influenced transitively by Y), to inferences from common historical context, to include parallelism of ideas (a methodology developed by Wim Klever to argue for Spinoza's neglected influence on Locke²), to include more diffuse forms of inheritance of ideas.

The question of influence

One of the themes of the book is thus the question of influence itself, and of how we go about identifying and tracing such influence, a kind of philosophical forensics which tries to broaden these questions beyond a linear, individualistic model of transmission towards a more networked approach in which ideas exist *in circulation*, thus acquiring a capacity for widening dissemination. The approach I develop therefore considers *communities* as bearers of ideas at various levels of scale, and looks at the resulting dissemination of ideas in terms of epistemic *process* rather than in terms of the exchange of self-contained epistemic products. A related theme in the book, as alluded to above, concerns *the politics of knowledge*: the question of access to knowledge and of the *social division of knowledge* which has become front and centre today, a period in which, perhaps more than ever before, mass opinion can be subject to distortion and manipulation, leading to effects which Spinoza would describe as 'the sad passions', comparable to Nietzsche's *resentment*, and similarly issuing from a kind of resentful passivity.

Multitude

The concept of 'multitude' has attracted significant attention over the past while, and has given rise to a renewed conception of mass movements, as most notably in the case of Negri and Hardt³, along with other post-Marxist thinkers emerging out of the Italian operaist and autonomist Marxist traditions such as Virno and Berardi. It has also fed into new conceptions of participatory democracy, while at the same time providing a critique of conventional understandings of social contract. As such, broadly considered, the concept describes a social mass which retains its combinatorial power in excess of juridical social-contractual arrangements. In this sense it contrasts with the concept of 'people', which is on the contrary defined as the legitimised product of the transfer of power to sovereign authority, as it is in Hobbes and also in Locke, although Locke, like Spinoza, retains the *jus resistentiae*: the right to resistance in cases where the social contract has been violated by the sovereign. Moreover this treatment of the concept of multitude seems to view it as being cleanly historically ruptural: Negri, Hardt and others write as if the concept *originated* with Spinoza and as if it did so fully formed. I argue instead that the concept of *multitude* was already in circulation in mediaeval debate, and that while there too we can find consistencies with the above conception, constituting the political problem of how an unstable social mass can be encouraged to accept the

² Klever, Wim, Locke's Disguised Spinozism in REVISTA Conatus - FILOSOFIA DE SPINOZA - VOLUME 6 - NÚMERO 11 - JULHO 2012

³ Cf. Negri, Antonio, and Hardt, Michael, *Empire*, Harvard University Press, 2001

existing system of law (both Averroes and Maimonides were jurists), it also carried with it another related dimension: that of a concern with the social division of knowledge, and the question of how to govern and to justify existing social rule (the rule of law) given manifest unevenness in the inherited distribution of wealth and power. This adds a *political-epistemic* dimension to the problem of the multitude defined above, and it is this which ultimately underlies the debate on the relative status of theology and philosophy which ensued, a debate that touches on the major Spinozan themes of reason and the imaginary. Both Maimonides and Averroes (inhabitants of Cordoba in the time of Islamic Andalucia and near-contemporaries,) offer justification for the continued promulgation of religious belief even when in contradiction with existing knowledge of the causal regularities of the natural world as revealed by early science, since conservation of existing social structure means that such demonstrative knowledge of the world requires that it remain in the hands of a few, thus justifying various forms of epistemic elitism; versions, in fact, of Plato's 'Golden Lie'. Thus, the concept of *multitude* carries a longer history, and raises the question of what I've referred to as *the politics of knowledge*.

The question of whether Spinoza went along with this acceptance of structural epistemic inequality is a complex one. Montag argues that Spinoza hesitated to develop his own interpretation of the concept of *multitude* to its fullest extent, aware of its radical implications⁴. At the same time Spinoza upholds the cultivation of reason as a means of escaping 'servitude' to the sad passions, and to the imaginary which supports them. The appeal which he makes in the *Ethics* to the cultivation of reason is certainly a universal one, yet in keeping with Montag's account, it may also be that he understands the cultivation of reason, *avant la lettre*, in more broadly social-evolutionary terms. This is a possible interpretation which the book considers. In any case for Spinoza this cultivation of reason is politically inspired: given the powerful affective dynamics of the multitude, the appeal to reason seeks to help us find a way towards living co-operatively rather than in conflict, based on the principles of compassion and social justice which Spinoza saw as the essential content of 'true religion'. In a recent book Susan James lays out a perspective in which we are, in fact, still learning how to live together, not simply in ways that avoid conflict, but in ways that make our flourishing mutual⁵. There, she argues too that although Spinoza rejected the primacy of the anthropomorphic theological imaginary, nevertheless he saw the imaginary as forming an inevitable part of social and political life, and that without imaginary and inadequate forms of representation these social lives would soon become unsustainable. It is in this sense, for example, that we speak of 'imagined communities', and it is these communities, these imaginary identifications, which in fact often provide the basis of our political choices and alignments, rather than the rational calculations of self-interest. Thus, just as Althusser saw ideology as being inevitable, then, so in James' account Spinoza similarly saw the imaginary as something which could be questioned and ultimately subsumed by causal reason but not as something which reason could leave behind.

Based on a more *liminal* interpretation of Spinoza's treatment of the concept, then, Montag joins Balibar in the development of a *transindividual* political ontology⁶, one which collapses the opposition of the individual to the social (atomism to organicism), and which constitutes a challenge both to liberal individualism and to the conventional formulations of social contract theory which it supports.

Spinoza as synthetic thinker

As we saw earlier, the *Ethics* is rigorously analytical, and constitutes something of a logical monument to Aristotelian demonstration. At the same time, however, I argue that there is another *synthetic* dimension to Spinoza's thought which has been neglected. Thus, a further major theme of the book concerns Spinoza's consistent deployment of the *coincidentia oppositorum* ('co-incidence of opposites'), associated with Cusanus and neo-Platonism, a conceptual strategy which involves the

⁴ Montag, Warren, Who's Afraid of the Multitude? Between the Individual and the State, The South Atlantic Quarterly, 104:4, Fall 2005.

⁵ James, Susan, Spinoza on Learning How to Live Together, Oxford University Press, 2020

⁶ Balibar, Etienne (1997). Spinoza: From Individuality to Transindividuality, text of lecture delivered at the Spinozahuis in Rijnsburg, May 1993.

collapse of abstract opposition, a strategy which I argue allows for new synthetic conceptual formations to emerge, (mind with body, reason with passion, God with Nature and perhaps even absolute substance with modal particulars, as Deleuze has argued). This strategy allows Spinoza to develop an immanent ontology of power which moves decisively beyond the mediaeval ontological landscape, yet by drawing deeply on its own resources: a pure ontology stripped of anthropomorphic imaginary desire. The same principle, I argue, may also account for the varied and apparently conflicting readings of Spinoza. As a synthetic thinker (although one who is strictly non-teleological), Spinoza is Epicurean and also Stoic; Aristotelian and also neo-Platonist; Ciceronian and also Machiavellian; and such apparent pluralism nevertheless comes to form an impressive overall unity, albeit an overdetermined one.

In general, then, the book defends an overall view of Spinoza as a *liminal* rather than cleanly ruptural thinker, a position which is opposed both to recent attempts at revisionism (which seek to reabsorb him into mediaeval thought), and also against what I've described above as those more 'heavy-loaded' readings in connection with the concept of *multitude*, which seek to locate in Spinoza a discontinuous moment, an act of clean severance from the past. In connection with the former, I argue that Spinoza did break with mediaeval philosophical theology, but did so by immersing himself thoroughly in its resources, perhaps making that break almost with regret, or at least in uncertainty as to the consequences of the break he knew he was enacting. Spinoza was possessed of an exceptional intellectual honesty, and it was this which ultimately drove him to root out the inconsistencies and contradictions of theological orthodoxy, both philosophically and politically, above all that of the imaginary of its anthropomorphic assumptions, and by the decisive question of the relative status of reason and the imaginary, as we've seen above. And in connection with the latter, I argue that the nature of the break was much less clean-cut, and more pervaded by Spinoza's own ambivalence than the cleanly ruptural account acknowledges, thus providing further evidence, in fact, of Spinoza's driven intellectual honesty.

The book will also go on to assess the ways in which Spinoza's thought has contributed to giving shape to modernity; if not the modernity of what Israel terms the Moderate Enlightenment, then that of an alternative modernity; one that, like Spinoza's incomplete account of democracy in the *Tractatus Politicus*, is yet to be thought through and given form. If so, it is one which will be made possible by a radical rethinking of civic access to knowledge, and a rethinking too of democratic processes as active processes of political education rather than as one or another appeal to imaginary identifications.

WHERE TWOSOMENESS FALLS APART: SPINOZA, NIETZSCHE AND POWER

This second project is planned out as monograph length, titled 'Where Twosomeness Falls Apart: Spinoza, Nietzsche and Power.' It looks at the question of Spinoza's influence on Nietzsche, and also at Nietzsche's later critical rejection of Spinoza. It considers Nietzsche's variable reception-history, including his association with fascism, and his later recuperation by a range of existentialist, then post-modern thinkers such as Foucault, Deleuze, Derrida and Vattimo. Nietzsche is a complex and experimental thinker, which is reflected in his frequent preference for an aphoristic style, inherited from La Rochefoucauld, to whom Paul Ree, a close friend, introduced him. And there is still a contradictory array of interpretations of Nietzsche's political thought. The main argument of the monograph is that there are undoubted commonalities between Spinoza and Nietzsche: the denial of teleology; an affective and relational view of human being; and a shared naturalistic monism. This ontology, too, is ultimately an immanent ontology of power: it is power which is the foundational principle in both thinkers, but it is here too that the divergence appears.

Conatus and Will-to-Power

Spinoza speaks of *conatus* (defined as an organism's inherent degree of vital and effective power) as a drive towards self-persistence, and implicitly as a principle of resistance towards pressures from its environment. It therefore constitutes a quasi-biological principle. Nietzsche later interprets this principle of *conatus* *critically*, suggesting that it implies an impoverished view of human life as one of sheer endurance, perhaps appropriate to a member of a migrant minority. In its place he

proposes the will-to-power, and although he makes relatively infrequent references to the concept, when he does it seems clear that this will-to-power, although including a principle of growth and increase in power, is inherently adversarial, and ultimately constitutes a zero-sum game.

And it seems that here he hadn't read Spinoza closely enough. But in fact he hadn't read Spinoza in the original at all. In his variable responses to Spinoza, Nietzsche is in fact relying on a study of Spinoza by Kuno Fischer, a contemporary philosopher who held Hegelian sympathies, and this fact therefore vitiates his responses, both extravagantly positive, at the time of his 'discovery' of Spinoza, and critical and repudiatory, as they came to be later. In fact Spinoza does understand this *conatus* as being capable of increase and expansion, but in a social dimension which Nietzsche seems unprepared to consider for political-ontological reasons. Thus, for Spinoza there is a multiplier-effect on power, such that the shared powers of individuals result in a greater combinatorial power, and may even constitute a higher-order individual. This greater power, moreover, increases the range of action available to the combined individuals, and more generally Spinoza's understanding of power is closely connected to potential for action.

Nietzsche's Political Ambivalence

Across the body of Nietzsche's thought, we can find seemingly contradictory evidence both of a form of hyper-individualism and yet also of a ruthless authoritarianism. And so the debate goes on between those who seek to rescue Nietzsche from his association with fascist thought and those who regard this approach as a form of historical amnesia. Nietzsche has provided valuable resources to the thinkers of the 'post-modern turn', such as Foucault and Deleuze, who position him as a critic of modernity and of the Enlightenment. However these thinkers seem to ignore the question of his influence on fascist thought, and to propose elaborately metaphorical readings of some of Nietzsche's more troublesome theorisings, such as those of the 'type' of the Master and the 'type' of the Slave, together with their corresponding and opposing moralities: of a proud and carefree nobility of power in the former case, and of dependent social mutuality on the other.

Meanwhile on the historical side of the debate, Domenico Losurdo, reacting to what he describes as the 'left-Nietzscheanism' of post-modern thinkers like Gianni Vattimo, adopts a different methodological approach, and seeks to map Nietzsche's thought on to contemporary historical¹ events. In this way he relates Nietzsche's thinking on the Master-Slave relation, and his justification for structural slavery (as in his early essay 'The Greek State'), to the historical question of slavery which arose with the American Civil War and with colonialism. In similar fashion he relates Nietzsche's glorification of war onto contemporary colonial expansion, and his concern with 'breeding' onto the widespread contemporary debates on eugenics. This may seem reductionist, but there is surely a certain validity in this restoration of Nietzsche's historical context, one which, if valid, reveals Nietzsche to be an interventionist thinker, responding to the events and pressures of his time. And the fact that this approach should now seem methodologically original, perhaps emphasizes the extent to which soft and recuperative readings of Nietzsche have become normalized. In any case Losurdo's intention here is not to prove that Nietzsche is a proto-fascist (that would constitute a form of teleological fallacy), but to establish a characterization of Nietzsche as 'a consistently reactionary thinker', one who is both astonishingly original and an astute critical 'genealogist' of culture.

Yet the monograph (my monograph) argues that there is actually profound contradiction at work in Nietzsche's thought, such that his dazzling critical virtuosity is constantly pulled back by his deeper political-ontological commitments. As Sloterdijk comments, 'His new ideas were consistently devoured by the oldest structure of values'. In this sense we can view Nietzsche as a thinker who is in fact working in tension if not in contradiction with himself, and perhaps therefore as being victim of his own 'spirit of gravity'. This is an interpretation I argue for in the monograph, and it is one which I think can go a long way towards solving the wide disparities we find in Nietzsche interpretation, as briefly described above.

¹Losurdo, Domenico, *Nietzsche, Aristocratic Rebel, Intellectual Biography and Critical Balance-Sheet*, Haymarket Books, Chicago, 2020

Spinoza and Nietzsche: Political Legacies

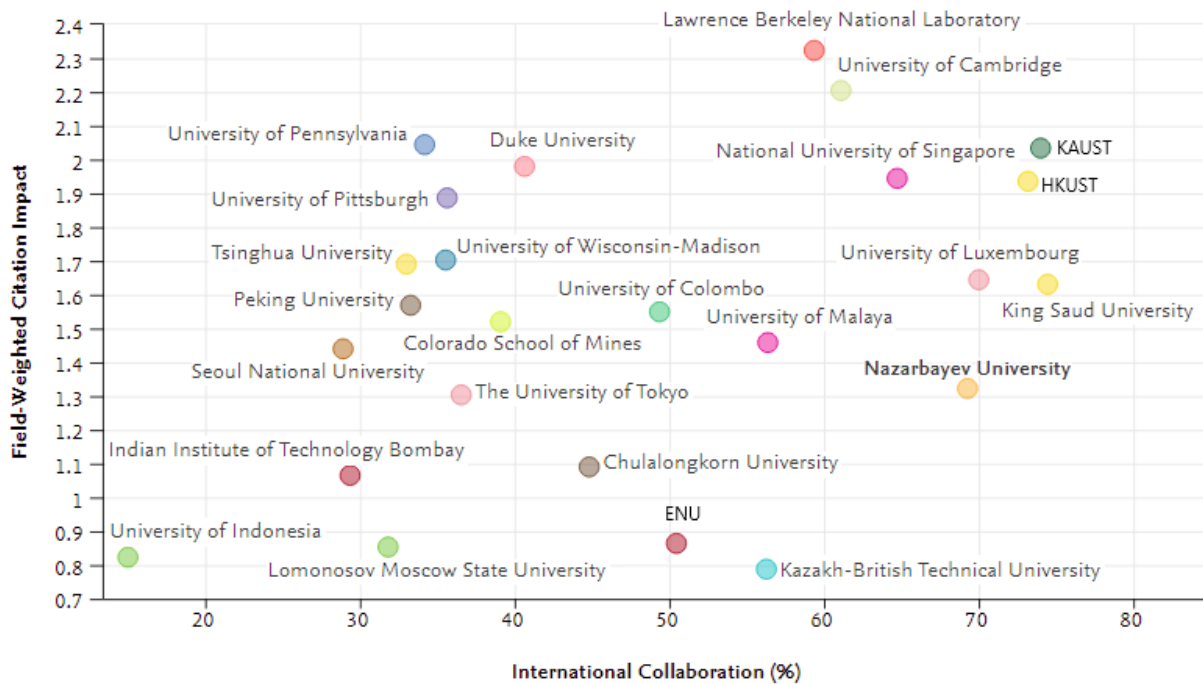
As we've seen above then, although sharing a common broad ontology of power, Spinoza and Nietzsche diverge on the nature of the dynamics of power. Whereas Spinoza views power as potentially combinatorial and thus as having a social dimension, Nietzsche retains a consistently individualistic conception of power which is either power-expressive (constituting an overflow or abundance of power), or adversarial, in which case power-relations are seen as a zero-sum game of victors and vanquished. Clearly, these differing views of power instill different political legacies, based on differing political ontologies: a *transindividual* ontology in the case of Spinoza², and an ontology of *selective individualism* in Nietzsche, but one in which the individual only acquires definition against an undifferentiated social mass: the 'herd' in Nietzsche's description. In this way Nietzsche's individualism may reflect wider tensions within liberalism itself, such that we might even speak of Nietzsche's 'dark liberalism' as one in which the hidden assumptions of traditional liberalism are raised to the surface and rendered explicit. And there is an interesting connection here with Jakob Burckhardt, who exercised strong influence on the young Nietzsche, and whose political thought similarly exhibits a hybrid of liberalism with conservatism, and who was also, like Nietzsche, deeply critical of massified modernity.

Another prominent category in Nietzsche's political ontology is that of 'types'³. This category allows Nietzsche to conflate description with explanation, and he proposes a variety of such types such as those of the priest, of the criminal, of the law-giver and others, subject to an overarching distinction between 'higher' and 'lower' types, with the dominant types remaining those of Master and Slave, a polarity which forms a constant throughout Nietzsche's thought, however they are to be interpreted.

²Balibar, Etienne: Spinoza: From Individuality to Transindividuality, lecture delivered at the Spinozahuis in Rijnsburg, the Netherlands, May 15th 1993.

³Cf. Lieter 2009 and elsewhere, and what he describes as Nietzsche's 'type-determinism'.

RESEARCH PERFORMANCE EVALUATION USING SCIVAL



In this issue, we are delighted to present you an overview of research activities conducted under the auspices of Nazarbayev University.

Since its inception in 2011, Nazarbayev University faculty members and researchers have released 5,022 peer-reviewed publications indexed by Scopus, and have been cited 35,308 times for 2011-2021 period (Source: Scopus, June 2021). The approximate number of citations per peer-reviewed publication is 7.0. The overall H-index of NU is 61, whereas H5-index is 44. The field-weighted citation impact is 1.30, meaning that our publications have been cited 30% more than would be expected based on the world average for similar publications.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#	<u>Opportunity</u>	<u>Funder</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Source link</u>
<u>1</u>	Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program	The Cancer Research Institute	01/02/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>2</u>	Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists	Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation	15/07/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>3</u>	SmartAgriHubs - RESTART the European Agri-Food Economy after the COVID-19 Crisis (Third Parties Call)	Smart Agri Hubs	28/07/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>4</u>	ADDF Issues 2021 Core Funding Scheme (2nd Call for Proposals)	Alzheimer's drug discovery foundation	30/07/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>5</u>	Humboldt Research Fellowship - Postdoctoral	Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung	31/07/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>6</u>	Research Fellowships in Humanities and Social Science	Wellcome Trust	24/08/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>7</u>	Colgate-Palmolive Grant for Alternative Research	Society of Toxicology	10/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>8</u>	Multiple Disciplines	Fulbright Association	15/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>9</u>	South and Central Asia Regional Research Program	Fulbright Association	15/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>10</u>	Action grants for a project on the quality and safety of radiation technology in diagnosis and treatment of cancer - EU4H-2021-PJ-03	EU4 Health Programme (EU4H)	15/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>11</u>	ARVO Foundation travel grants	ARVO Foundation for eye research	20/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>12</u>	Medical Technology and Devices: from Lab to Patient - HORIZON-EIC-2021-TRANSITIONCHALLENGES-01-01	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	22/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>13</u>	Equine Behavior Grant Proposals	Morris Animal Foundation	29/09/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>14</u>	eXtended Reality Modelling (RIA) - HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-13	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	21/10/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>15</u>	Workforce skills for industry 5.0 (RIA) - HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-26	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	21/10/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>16</u>	Emerging Technologies in Cell and Gene therapy - HORIZON-EIC-2021-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-03	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	27/10/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>17</u>	Tools to measure and stimulate activity in Brain Tissue - HORIZON-EIC-2021-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-02	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	27/10/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>18</u>	Ensured infrastructure resilience in case of Pandemics - HORIZON-CL3-2021-INFRA-01-02	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	23/11/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>19</u>	2021 Pilot Award	Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)	08/12/2021	<u>URL</u>
<u>20</u>	Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award	Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation	02/01/2022	<u>URL</u>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#	<u>Opportunity</u>	<u>Funder</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Source link</u>
<u>21</u>	GLOBAL TEAM SCIENCE AWARD	The Lupus Research Alliance (LRA)	01/04/2022	<u>URL</u>
<u>22</u>	Personalised blueprint of chronic inflammation in health-to-disease transition - HORIZON-HLTH-2022-STAYHLTH-02-01	Horizon Europe Framework Programme	21/04/2022	<u>URL</u>
<u>23</u>	Opportunity for international teachers: Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (Fulbright TEA) General Pedagogy Cohort	International Research and Exchanges Board	Not specified	<u>URL</u>
<u>24</u>	NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Drug Abuse Research Fellowship	National Institute on Drug Abuse	Not specified	<u>URL</u>
<u>25</u>	The LAM Foundation`s grants	The LAM Foundation	Not specified	<u>URL</u>
<u>26</u>	Decoding Immune-Mediated Diseases – Novel Approaches for Therapeutic Insights grants	JDRF, Lupus Research Alliance and National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Not specified	<u>URL</u>
<u>27</u>	Targeted Grants in MPS	The Simons Foundation’s Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MPS) division	Not specified	<u>URL</u>

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